

**For Immediate Release**

## News Release

### Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw

**Edson, Alberta, June 18, 2025** – Council has given all three readings to Bylaw No. 2313, the Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw.

This bylaw puts a focus on pet care and ownership responsibility, regulates the number and types of animals allowed per household, establishes restraint regulations, clears up definitions for “vicious dogs”, establishes parameters for addressing nuisance, aggressive, or dangerous dogs, and clarifies the complaint mechanism with clear penalties for non-compliance.

Many of the changes stem from our public consultation done in 2024, as well as best practices pulled from many communities across Alberta.

One item of note, which received significant support in the public engagement, is the addition of regulations for cat licensing to match the regulations for dogs. As such, the licensing and regulation of cats has been added to this bylaw. Now that the Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw has been passed, residents are required to register their cats, however, no fees will be attached for 2025. Fees will be reviewed during the annual review of the Fees and Charges Bylaw scheduled for later this year.

The public consultation also showed support for moving towards a lifetime licence for animals, however, at this time, licensing will remain yearly to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the financial implications associated with adding cats to the licensing program.

The new Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw has a major focus on pet owners being accountable for their pets' actions, setting community expectations, and meeting the needs of evolving animal welfare standards.

For more information or to review the new bylaw and associated fees, visit [www.edson.ca/bylaws](http://www.edson.ca/bylaws).

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