VILLAGE OF MYRNAM
PROVINCE OF ALBERTA
BYLAW NO. 2026-13

Being a Bylaw of the Village of Myrnam in the Province of Alberta to regulate the keeping, licensing, control, and impoundment of animals and to promote responsible pet ownership within the Village.

WHEREAS the Municipal Government Act, RSA 2000, c. M-26, as amended, authorizes Council to pass bylaws respecting wild and domestic animals and activities in relation to them;

AND WHEREAS Council recognizes the importance of responsible animal ownership and wishes to establish regulations that protect the health, safety, and enjoyment of residents while promoting responsible pet ownership;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Village of Myrnam, in the Province of Alberta, duly assembled, enacts as follows:

1.0 TITLE, PURPOSE AND APPLICATION

1.1 Title

This Bylaw may be cited as the Responsible Animal Ownership Bylaw.

1.2 Purpose

The purpose of this Bylaw is to:

a. promote responsible ownership of animals;

b. regulate the licensing and identification of dogs and cats;

c. establish reasonable limits on the number of dogs and cats kept on residential properties;

d. prevent animals from becoming a nuisance or creating risks to persons, animals, or property; and

e. provide for the enforcement and impoundment of animals where necessary.

1.3 Application

This Bylaw applies to all owners and persons having care and control of animals within the boundaries of the Village of Myrnam.

1.4 Interpretation

Where this Bylaw is silent, the provisions of applicable provincial and federal legislation shall apply.

1.5 Severability

If any provision of this Bylaw is declared invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining provisions shall continue in force.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Bylaw:

2.1 "**Animal**" means a domesticated animal kept by a person for companionship, pleasure, or other lawful purpose, including dogs and cats.

2.2 **"At Large"** means an animal that is off the property of its owner and is not under the immediate care and effective control of a responsible person or is not otherwise appropriately contained or restrained.

2.3 **"Bylaw Enforcement Officer"** means a person appointed or authorized by the Village to enforce this Bylaw and includes a Peace Officer acting within their lawful authority.

2.4 **"Cat"** means a domesticated member of the feline family.

2.5 **"Dog"** means a domesticated member of the canine family.

2.6 **"Licence"** means a licence issued by the Village for a dog or cat pursuant to this Bylaw.

2.7 **"Owner"** means any person who:

a. owns an animal;

b. keeps or harbours an animal;

c. has possession, custody, or control of an animal; or

d. permits an animal to remain on property owned or occupied by that person.

2.8 **"Permitted Leash"** means a leash not exceeding two (2) metres in length that is capable of controlling the animal being restrained.

2.9 **"Person"** includes an individual, corporation, partnership, society, organization, or other legal entity.

2.10 **"Public Property"** means any property owned or controlled by the Government of Canada, the Province of Alberta, or the Village of Myrnam that is available for public use.

2.11 **"Private Property"** means any property that is not Public Property.

2.12 **"Tag"** means the identification tag issued by the Village for a licensed animal.

2.13 **"Village"** means the Village of Myrnam.

2.14 **"Violation Tag"** means a written notice issued by a Bylaw Enforcement Officer advising that an offence has occurred and providing the person with the opportunity to pay a specified penalty within the prescribed time in accordance with this Bylaw.

2.15 **"Violation Ticket"** means a ticket issued pursuant to the Provincial Offences Procedure Act.

3.0 LICENSING

3.1 Licence Required

Every owner of a dog or cat that is three (3) months of age or older and kept within the Village shall obtain and maintain a current licence, unless the dog or cat is exempt under this Bylaw.

3.2 Temporary Visitor Animals

A person who is temporarily visiting within the Village is not required to obtain a Village licence for a dog or cat where:

a. the dog or cat is currently licensed in another municipality; and

b. the owner registers the dog or cat with the Village.

Registration under this section does not require payment of a licence fee and does not require the issuance of a Village tag.

Where a dog or cat remains within the Village for more than ninety (90) days in a calendar year, the owner shall obtain a Village licence and pay the applicable licence fee.

3.3 Licence Fees

Licence fees shall be established by the Village's Master Rates Bylaw, as amended from time to time.

3.4 Licence Term

Dog and cat licences expire on December 31 of each calendar year unless otherwise specified by Council.

3.5 Identification Tag

Every licensed animal shall be issued a tag.

When a dog or cat is off the owner's property, the tag shall be securely attached to the animal's collar or harness.

3.6 Replacement Tags

If an identification tag issued by the Village is lost, damaged, or destroyed, the Owner shall obtain a replacement tag from the Village upon payment of the applicable fee established in the Master Rates Bylaw.

3.7 Transferability

A licence or tag issued for one dog or cat is not transferable to another dog or cat.

3.8 Assistance Animals

A licence fee shall not be payable for a guide dog, service dog, police service dog, or other assistance animal recognized under applicable legislation, provided the owner registers the animal with the Village and provides reasonable documentation satisfactory to the Village confirming the animal's status.

An assistance animal registered under this section shall not be required to pay a licence fee or wear a Village identification tag unless otherwise required by legislation.

4.0 ANIMAL OWNERSHIP

4.1 Maximum Number of Animals

Unless otherwise authorized by this Bylaw, no person shall keep more than two (2) dogs and two (2) cats on any property within the Village.

Notwithstanding Section 4.1(a), a property having more than twenty-five (25) acres shall not have more than fifteen (15) dogs and fifteen (15) cats.

A property having more than twenty-five (25) acres is exempt from the animal licensing requirements under this Bylaw.

The exemptions and maximums established under this section do not relieve an Owner from complying with all other provisions of this Bylaw.

4.2 Existing Animals

An owner keeping more animals than permitted by Section 4.1 on the date this Bylaw comes into force may continue to keep those animals for the remainder of each animal's natural life, provided all provisions of this Bylaw are complied with.

Once the number of animals falls below the maximum permitted by this Bylaw, no replacement animal may be acquired that would result in exceeding the permitted limit.

5.0 RESPONSIBLE OWNERSHIP AND ANIMAL CONTROL

5.1 Care and Control

Every owner shall ensure that any animal owned, kept, or harboured by them is provided with appropriate care, shelter, food, water, and veterinary attention when reasonably required.

5.2 Nuisance Animals

No owner shall permit an animal to:

a. create a nuisance;

b. cause unreasonable disturbance or interference with the quiet enjoyment of another person's property;

c. create an unsanitary condition or health hazard; or

d. cause damage to public or private property.

5.3 Animal Waste

An owner or person having care and control of an animal shall immediately remove any feces deposited by the animal on public property or private property not owned by that person.

No owner shall permit animal waste to accumulate on their property to such an extent that it creates a nuisance, unreasonable odour, health concern, or attracts pests.

5.4 Noise

No owner shall permit an animal to bark, howl, cry, whine, or make any other noise that:

a. continues for an unreasonable period of time; or

b. unreasonably disturbs the peace, quiet, or enjoyment of another person.

5.5 Animals Running at Large

No owner shall permit an animal to be At Large.

An animal shall not be considered At Large where:

a. the animal is located within a designated off-leash area established by Council; and

b. the animal remains under the immediate care and effective control of the owner or person having care and control of the animal.

5.6 Off-Leash Areas

Council may designate areas within the Village where dogs may be exercised without a leash, as identified in Schedule "A" of this Bylaw.

Within a designated off-leash area, the owner or person having care and control of a dog shall ensure that the dog:

a. remains within sight and hearing distance of the owner or person having care and control;

b. returns promptly when called or commanded;

c. does not chase, threaten, disturb, or interfere with any person, animal, vehicle, or property; and

d. is otherwise under the immediate care and effective control of the owner.

5.7 Owner Responsibility in Off-Leash Areas

The designation of an off-leash area under this Bylaw does not relieve an owner or person having care and control of an animal from responsibility for the actions, behaviour, or conduct of that animal.

The owner or person having care and control of an animal remains responsible for ensuring the animal does not cause injury, damage, nuisance, or interference with any person, animal, vehicle, or property.

5.8 Leashing and Control from Vehicles

No owner or person having care and control of an animal shall exercise an animal while remaining inside a motor vehicle, whether the vehicle is moving or stationary.

5.9 Abandonment

No person shall abandon an animal within the boundaries of the Village.

5.10 Teasing or Tormenting Animals

No person shall tease, torment, provoke, abuse, or otherwise intentionally cause unnecessary distress to an animal.

6.0 ANIMALS CAUSING INJURY OR DISPLAYING AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOUR

6.1 Prohibited Behaviour

No owner shall permit an animal to:

a. attack or bite a person or another animal;

b. chase, threaten, or attempt to injure a person or another animal; or

c. display aggressive behaviour that creates a reasonable concern for public safety.

6.2 Owner Responsibility

The owner of an animal that causes injury or damage is responsible for any costs, damages, or expenses arising from the incident, including impoundment, veterinary treatment, or other reasonable expenses incurred by the Village or its contractors.

6.3 Seizure of Animals

A Bylaw Enforcement Officer may seize and impound an animal where the officer has reasonable grounds to believe the animal:

a. has bitten, attacked, or injured a person or another animal;

b. is running at large;

c. presents an immediate risk to public safety; or

d. is otherwise in contravention of this Bylaw.

7.0 IMPOUNDMENT

7.1 Authority to Impound

A Bylaw Enforcement Officer or person acting under the authority of the Village may capture and impound an animal where the officer has reasonable grounds to believe the animal:

a. is At Large;

b. is in contravention of this Bylaw;

c. presents a risk to public safety; or

d. requires temporary care or protection until appropriate arrangements can be made.

7.2 Temporary Holding

The Village may temporarily secure an impounded animal at a location deemed appropriate by the Village until arrangements can be made for transfer to a suitable animal boarding facility, shelter, veterinarian, or other approved location.

The Village is not required to maintain an animal shelter or permanent impound facility.

7.3 Owner Responsibility for Costs

The owner of an impounded animal is responsible for all reasonable costs associated with the capture, transportation, care, boarding, veterinary treatment, and release of the animal.

Before an impounded animal is released, the owner shall pay:

a. any applicable licence fees;

b. all impoundment and boarding fees established by the Village; and

c. any other reasonable costs incurred by the Village or its contractors relating to the animal.

7.4 Release of Impounded Animals

An impounded animal shall only be released to:

a. the owner; or

b. a person authorized by the owner,

upon providing identification satisfactory to the Village or its contractor and payment of all applicable fees and costs.

7.5 Unclaimed Animals

Where an animal is not claimed within the applicable holding period, the Village may deal with the animal in accordance with applicable legislation and any agreements with contractors or animal care facilities.

8.0 INTERFERENCE AND OBSTRUCTION

8.1 Interference Prohibited

No person shall:

a. obstruct or interfere with a Bylaw Enforcement Officer carrying out duties under this Bylaw;

b. release or attempt to release an impounded animal without authorization;

c. provide false or misleading information to a Bylaw Enforcement Officer; or

d. refuse to provide identification when required by lawful authority.

9.0 ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES

9.1 Offence

A person who contravenes any provision of this Bylaw commits an offence.

9.2 Violation Tags

A Bylaw Enforcement Officer who has reasonable grounds to believe a person has contravened this Bylaw may issue a Violation Tag in accordance with this Bylaw.

9.3 Violation Tickets

Where a Bylaw Enforcement Officer has reasonable grounds to believe an offence has occurred, the officer may issue a Violation Ticket in accordance with the Provincial Offences Procedure Act.

9.4 Penalties

The penalties for offences under this Bylaw shall be established in the Village's Master Rates Bylaw.

10.0 REPEAL AND EFFECTIVE DATE

10.1 Repeal

Bylaw No. 2018-07, the Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw, is repealed upon this Bylaw coming into force.

10.2 Effective Date

This Bylaw comes into force upon third and final reading and signing by the Mayor and Chief Administrative Officer.

READ a first time this 15th day of August 2026.

READ a second time this 15th day of August 2026.

READ a third time this 15th day of August 2026.

VILLAGE OF MYRNAM

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RICK SADOWSKY, MAYOR

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ELSIE KIZIAK, CAO

Schedule "A" – Designated Off-Leash Areas

Area

50 Avenue east of 44 Street

47 Avenue east of 4503-47 Avenue

Arena area (north of 4602-51 Avenue) unless there is a function occurring at the arena/grounds and campers