

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF  
**ANTIGONISH**

<b>TOPIC:</b>	Dog Control Policy
<b>POLICY NUMBER:</b>	20
<b>DATE APPROVED:</b>	November 18, 2003 (Min#158)
<b>DATE REVISED:</b>	April 16, 2013 (2013-032) January 15, 2019 (Min#2019-005)

**1. TITLE**

1.1 This Policy may be cited as the “Dog Control Policy”

**2. PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

2.1 This Policy is supplementary to the Municipality’s By-law Respecting the Responsible Ownership of Dogs. All definitions in the “Dog By-law” apply to this policy. The purpose of this Policy is to establish procedures for the enforcement of the Dog By-law of the Municipality of the County of Antigonish. This Policy, in partnership with the “Dog By-law”, provides structure and guidance for the Municipal Dog Control Officer, who is employed by contract.

**3. PAYMENT OF FEES**

3.1 Any fees applicable to the release of impounded dogs can be found in the Municipal Fee Policy.

3.2 The owner or individual responsible for a dog(s) that has been impounded must first pay the Dog Control and Impoundment fees to the Municipality prior to the release of the dog(s).

3.3 This payment can be made directly to the Dog Control Officer or at the Municipal Administration Centre, 285 Beech Hill Road.

3.4 Personal cheques cannot be accepted for the payment of fees.

3.5 Upon receipt of verification of payment of the Dog Control and Impoundment fees, the Dog Control Officer for the Municipality may proceed with the release of the dog(s) in accordance with all other relevant sections of the By-law.

**4. OFFSITE OBEDIENCE TRAINING**

4.1 The following provisions must be met before the Dog Control Officer will permit obedience training of unleashed dogs conducted off the property occupied or owned by the Owner of the dog being trained or the trainer, as noted in Section 5.6 of the Dog By-law:

4.1.1 The applicant (trainer) provides a letter acknowledging any liability of risk associated with the unleashed dogs, and provides proof of sufficient liability insurance;

- 4.1.2 The applicant (trainer) provides a Companion Dog Certificate issued by the Canadian Kennel Club in compliance with the Canadian Kennel Club Obedience Trial Rule Book, which ensures the applicant has trained at least one dog to the Companion Dog Level;
- 4.1.3 The training site is on private property and approved by the Dog Control Officer; and,
- 4.1.4 The applicant (trainer) provides a letter from the property owner granting permission to train dogs on the site, and holds the Municipality not liable for any action that may occur as a result of the dog training.

## **5. MUNICIPAL DOG POUND**

5.1 Council shall appoint a Dog Control Officer who shall:

- 5.1.1 Collect on behalf of the Municipality any Impounding Fees, Daily Pound Fees as listed in the Municipal Fee Policy, and any other additional charges or fees as are authorized in the Dog By-law and as may be set by policy of Council.
- 5.1.2 Be responsible for the operation of the pound;
- 5.1.3 Provide adequate food and water to impounded dogs, in accordance with the standards outlined in the Canadian Kennel Code of Practice; and,
- 5.1.4 Keep the pound in a reasonable state of cleanliness, in accordance with the standards outlined in the Canadian Kennel Code of Practice

5.2 The Dog Control Officer shall maintain a recorded log, in which they shall record the description of every dog impounded, the name of the person who impounded the dog, the time and location of the impoundment, the fees owing or paid, and what happened to the impounded dog once it was released from the custody of the Municipality.

## **6. PROCEDURE AFTER IMPOUNDING**

6.1 Further to Section 8.1 of the Dog By-law, the following procedure shall be followed when a dog is impounded by the Dog Control Officer:

6.2 Within two (2) business days of a dog being impounded, and if the Owner can be determined, the Dog control Officer:

6.3 Shall mail a dog impound notice to the Owner, by registered mail from the Antigonish Post Office, made in time to be delivered at least three (3) business days before the time fixed in the notice; and,

6.4 Shall post a dog impound notice in the Municipal Office and on the Municipality's website and social media outlets at least three (3) business days before the time fixed in the notice.

6.5 The dog impound notice shall be in the following form:

Dog Impound Notice

Take Notice that a dog (*insert brief description of the dog with any ID information*) has been impounded in the dog pound of the Municipality of the County of Antigonish. Unless such dog is claimed no later than (*hour, day, date*), the dog may be disposed of or euthanized according to law.

Dated at Antigonish this \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dog Control Officer

**7. EUTHANIZING A DOG WITH OWNER'S CONSENT**

7.1 Further to Section 11 in the Dog By-law, where a dog is to be euthanized with the Owner's consent:

- 7.1.1 The dog may be returned to the Owner so long as the Owner signs a temporary undertaking in relation to the destruction of the dog;
- 7.1.2 The temporary undertaking contains such conditions, safeguards, and limitations that the Dog Control Officer deems to be appropriate;
- 7.1.3 The temporary undertaking contains a timeframe for the dog being euthanized; and,
- 7.1.4 The temporary undertaking contains a clause requiring the Owner to provide the Dog Control Officer with proof that the dog has been euthanized.

**8. OUTDOOR PENS AND STRUCTURES CONTAINING FIERCE OR DANGEROUS DOGS**

8.1 Further to Section 13.1(b) of the Dog By-law, the following requirements shall apply to outdoor pens or structures containing Fierce and Dangerous Dogs:

- 8.1.1 The locked pen or other structure shall have secure sides and a secure top, and if it has no bottom secured to the sides, the sides must be embedded in the ground to a minimum of thirty (30) centimetres.
- 8.1.2 The locked pen or other structure shall provide the fierce or dangerous dog with shelter from the elements and be of the minimum dimensions of one and one-half (1.5) metres by three (3) metres and be a minimum one and one-half (1.5) metres in height.
- 8.1.3 The locked pen or other structure shall not be within one (1) metre of the property line or within five (5) metres of a neighbouring dwelling unit.

**9. APPEALING A FIERCE OR DANGEROUS DOG CLASSIFICATION**

9.1 The following is the procedure for appealing matters as noted in Section 16 of the Dog By-law:

- 9.1.1 An application under this section shall be in writing in Form “B”, and shall be filed with the Clerk within three (3) business days of the seizure of a dog under the relevant provision, or at any time in regard to a dog that has not been seized.
- 9.1.2 The Clerk, upon receiving an application for review shall refer the matter to Council or the designated committee of Council, as the case may be, which shall convene a meeting within seven (7) days.
- 9.1.3 A Review under this part shall be conducted by Council, or by such committee of Council as may from time to time be designated by resolution of Council for that purpose.
- 9.1.4 At the meeting referred to in clause 9.1.2 above, the owner, or the owner’s representative, and the Dog Control Officer shall be given an opportunity to be heard.
- 9.1.5 At the conclusion of the meeting, or within three (3) business days thereafter, Council or the committee shall render a decision in writing in regard to an application for review.
  - 9.1.5.1 A decision under this section shall indicate whether or not the dog in respect of which the application was made is within the section of this by-law in issue, and shall be binding upon the Dog Control Officer.
- 9.1.6 Nothing in this Part shall prevent a Dog Control Officer from acting on new information in regard to a dog, or the behaviour of a dog subsequent to a review.

**10. POLICY REVIEW:**

- 10.1 This Policy is to be reviewed every five years, unless deemed otherwise by the Committee of the Whole from time to time.