

Responsible PET Ownership



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As a responsible pet owner, you have an obligation to care for the health and well-being of your animal for the rest of its life. Pets can bring great joy and companionship but ownership is a privilege that carries many responsibilities. You have a duty to prevent your pet's activities from disrupting neighbours or the environment. Help the Town of Riverview ensure that pets, their owners and neighbours live together in safety and harmony by adhering to principles of responsible pet ownership.

Before purchasing a pet

Pet ownership is a commitment that should be considered carefully. Before you purchase a dog, cat or any other pet you should consider the commitment required and ensure that you can meet the animal's needs. Some of these responsibilities can be quite costly so you need to be sure you can afford to care for the animal for the duration of its life. Once an informed decision has been made, it is imperative that you acquire your pet from a rescue organization or breeder that is both credible and humane.

PRINCIPLE #1

Provide a licence and permanent identification

A licence allows Animal Control to reunite lost pets with their owners. Per the Animal Control By-Law, all dogs and cats residing in the town of Riverview must be licensed at four months of age. The animal must wear his licence tag when he is off the owner's property. Licence tags can be purchased at Riverview Town Hall, from the Animal Control Officer during the door-to-door campaign or from a Riverview veterinary clinic.



PRINCIPLE #2

Spay or neuter your pet

Responsible pet owners must ensure their dog or cat is spayed or neutered. Not only does spay/neuter surgery prevent overpopulation, it also makes for happier pets. In cats, it eliminates crying, howling and frantic attempts to get out and find a mate. Animals enjoy better health after surgery and owners often notice improvements in their pet's behaviour. There is a reduced fee for licensing a spayed or neutered dog or cat.

When to contact

Lost and found, stray or injured domestic animals, barking, dog bites, failure to scoop

Riverview Animal Control: 506-387-2230

If you see a dog in distress left in a hot car

NBSPCA: 1-877-722-1522

Nuisance wild animal (raccoon, deer, coyote, etc.), injured or dead wild animals

Department of Natural Resources:
506-856-2344

When to call the police

Calling the police should be reserved for emergencies only! For example: An issue of immediate public safety such as a dog attack in progress or when an animal is in an immediate life threatening situation and requires instant action. Call: 857-2400

PRINCIPLE #3

Provide training, socialization, proper diet and medical care

Basic obedience training is the first step to a well-socialized dog. A responsible owner ensures that their dog does not bite, bark at, threaten or chase other animals, bicycles, vehicles or people.

When taken to an off-leash park, a dog must be under the owner's control at all times to ensure that other people feel safe around your dog. This means that the dog must respond to voice, sound or sight commands and come when called. Owners must ensure their dog is within sight and is able to respond.

Dogs and cats require daily care, nutritious food, fresh water and exercise. Regular grooming, yearly checkups and a vaccination schedule recommended by a veterinarian are important responsibilities that maintain the health of your pets.

PRINCIPLE #4

Don't allow your pet to become a threat or nuisance

CATS

Responsible owners ensure their pets do not roam freely beyond their owner's property. Under the Animal Control By-Law, cats must be confined to their owner's property. Owners must ensure that their cat does not cause damage to property such as digging in neighbouring yards, knocking over garbage cans or scattering garbage.

Despite popular belief, cats do not need to go outdoors or roam. Animal Control strongly recommends keeping your cat indoors because indoor cats live longer, healthier lives. If you do

want your cat to go outside, consider using a harness and leash or constructing a cat enclosure. If a cat is being a nuisance in your yard and you know where he lives, contact Animal Control to register a complaint. When we receive a cat through this service, we make every possible attempt to contact the owner.

DOGS

A dog that is not securely leashed and in the custody of someone able to control it is considered "at large". Responsible owners ensure that their fence is intact and that gates are secure so their dog can't get out of the yard. Under the By-Law, dogs can't be off-leash unless in a designated area.

Barking is instinctive to dogs but dog owners must ensure barking does not become a nuisance to neighbours. Dogs might bark out of boredom. Proper training, exercise and stimulation will help to prevent problem barking.

Dogs should always be secured while in a moving vehicle, whether in a secured kennel or in a harness and pet safety belt. He should not be able to jump or be thrown from a vehicle. Suitable ventilation must be provided for your pet if you leave him unattended in a vehicle. Your dog must not be left unattended if the weather conditions are too hot or too cold.

Why is it important to clean up animal waste?

Cleaning up after pets shows courtesy to neighbours, reduces exposure to parasites, enhances neighbourhood livability by keeping it clean, and it's the law. Owners are required to clean up animal waste on public and private property and asked to remove it from their yards and then dispose of it properly.

Is it required for dogs and cats to have rabies vaccinations?

Yes. Dogs and cats living in Riverview must have current rabies vaccinations because of the risk the disease poses to the public. Vaccination records are valid for up to three years. The Town of Riverview will keep a record of your pet's vaccination expiry date so you do not need to present proof of vaccination at each annual renewal. **Note: Indoor cats that never leave the residence are exempt from the rabies vaccination requirement but must be licensed.**



Lost pets

If you lose your pet, contact Animal Control immediately at 387-2230. If the animal is not wearing a licence tag and the owners cannot be located, he will be kept for five days and then given to an approved animal care organization. The owner must pay all associated fees before the pet can be released.

The Town of Riverview's Animal Control Department (30 Honour House Court) strives to ensure safe and healthy living for domestic animals and town residents.

Services include:

- Reuniting lost pets with their owners
- Responding to public inquiries on animal issues
- Promoting responsible pet ownership through public education
- Picking up stray dogs and cats
- Licensing of dogs and cats
- Investigating barking dog complaints and animal bites
- Ensuring emergency medical care for injured or ill stray domestic animals



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