



**Village of Rycroft
Request for Decision**

Council Meeting Date: May 16, 2023

TOPIC: Animal Control Bylaw Amendment/Update

RECOMMENDED ACTION: That Council give first reading to the Animal Control Bylaw 239-23.

BACKGROUND: At the May 3, 2023 Regular Meeting of Council, Council gave direction to look into best practices for allowing backyard hens to be managed in the Village for the purpose of setting up a trial run of the program for the community, and present to Council for consideration.

A section on Backyard Hens has been incorporated into the bylaw. The procedure was copied from the policy at the Town of Spirit River, as it is always best to have consistent laws for our two close municipalities. Two significant changes from the Town of Spirit River policy. The first is that the authority is given to Administration to manage, rather than Council to approve. This will streamline the process, and once Council states the rules and guidelines, Administration is to implement Council bylaw. The second change is ours is incorporated into a bylaw, rather than just a policy. The bylaw sets the rules for everyone, and gives Administration the direction to act.

I did show the guidelines to the community members that appeared at the Council meetings and sent letters to Council for their feedback, and received feedback that they were content with the guidelines.

While the bylaw is open, other than some inconsequential grammar and formatting, there are a few more changes Administration is suggesting:

Changing the title from Animal Control Officer to Animal Bylaw Officer. This updates the description to be current with the common title.

Eliminating the Violation tag and issuing a Municipal ticket. This simplifies the process by eliminating a tag and ticket system, and using a Municipal ticket system.

Rewarding residents for prompt payment; and new residents/pets

Section 4 January 1-31/New Resident or New Animal \$15

Section 4 February 1 – December 31 \$25

(The current price for a tag is \$25)

Adding progressive penalty for not picking up dog excrement

Section 23... Fail to immediately remove Animal defecation from public/private property

First Offense	\$50
Second Offense	\$125
Third Offense	\$300
Fourth and subsequent offense, within 1 year period, no less than	\$500

Section 27 Allow Animal chase/bite/attack/threaten Person or other animal \$750

The current charge is \$100. The charge for Kill another Animal is \$750. The charge increase indicates the seriousness of the offense.

Delete Chase Motor Vehicle \$100.

Anything chasing a motor vehicle can fall under the category of threatening a person.

We did review other municipal animal control bylaws as comparisons. Our Bylaw Enforcement Officer was sent the bylaw for review also. We have found that the current bylaw has enough guidelines that allow us to effectively manage our community animal control needs.

It is suggested Council give the first reading, then have the time before the next meeting to hear any public input that could change the bylaw before the final readings.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: Minor as noted in the bylaw. No significant budget impact.

POLICY AND/OR LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS: None.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. Council could give three readings to the bylaw.
2. Council could suggest further changes to the bylaw.

ATTACHMENTS: Draft Animal Control Bylaw 239-23.

Peter Thomas

Chief Administrative Officer

May 10, 2023

Date