

Animal Control BYLAW 2025-04

*Being a Bylaw of the Municipal District of Lesser Slave River No. 124,
in the Province of Alberta, to provide for the licensing, regulating, controlling, confinement, and
destruction of Animals.*

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 7 of the *Municipal Government Act*, RSA 2000, c M-26, as amended, a municipal council may pass bylaws respecting wild and domestic animals and activities in relation to them;

AND WHEREAS, the Council of the Municipal District of Lesser Slave River No. 124 deems it necessary to provide for the licensing, regulating, controlling, confinement, and destruction of animals within the Municipal District;

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of the Municipal District of Lesser Slave River No. 124 in the Province of Alberta, duly assembled, hereby enacts as follows:

1. Title

This Bylaw shall be known as the “Animal Control Bylaw”.

2. Definitions

- a) **Abandoned Animal** means any Animal left without food, water and/or shelter for a period exceeding twenty-four hours.
- b) **Animal** means any live animal, including both Domestic Animals and Livestock, but does not include humans or wild animals.
- c) **Animal Control Officer** shall mean a Municipal Bylaw Officer, Peace Officer as defined in the *Peace Officers Act*, S.A. 2006, c P-3.5, and members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.
- d) **At Large** means where an Animal is at any place within the Municipal District other than the Owner's property or as otherwise allowed under this Bylaw, and is not being contained, Kept by any person, or is not otherwise under Physical Control by a person capable of restraining the Animal.
- e) **Bylaw Coordinator** means the Chief Administrative Officer of the Municipal District and/or his/her designate.
- f) **Damage** shall include defecating or urinating on any private property or Public Property.
- g) **Designated Animal Shelter** means the premises designated by the Municipal District or its agent for the purpose of impounding and Keeping Animals in accordance with the provisions of this Bylaw.
- h) **Domestic Animal** means small animals which are normally kept as household pets, such as cats and dogs. Domestic Animals do not include Livestock or wild animals.
- i) **Fowl** means a domesticated bird of any kind.
- j) **Hamlet** means any area declared to be a Hamlet by the Minister.
- k) **Keep/Keeps/Kept** means to own, possess, harbor, maintain or have control or custody of an Animal.
- l) **Kennel** means any place, owned by any person, group of persons or corporation engaged in the commercial business of breeding, buying, selling, or boarding Domestic Animals. Typical facilities include, but are not limited to boarding and training establishments, and animal rescues.
- m) **Livestock** means bison, horses, cattle, swine, donkeys, llamas, alpacas, fowl, swine, mules, oxen, sheep, bees, goats, and fur-bearing animals raised in captivity.

- n) **Municipal District** means the Municipal District of Lesser Slave River No. 124.
- o) **Owner** means any person or body corporate:
- i. who is the licensed owner of an Animal;
 - ii. who has legal title to an Animal;
 - iii. who has possession or custody, or care and control of an Animal, either temporarily or permanently; or
 - iv. who harbours an Animal, or allows the Animal to remain on their premises.
- p) **Permitted Leash** means a leash used to restrain a Domestic Animal that is no longer than two meters.
- q) **Physical Control** means:
- i. restrained by a Permitted Leash; or
 - ii. kept in:
 1. a container;
 2. an enclosure;
 3. a motor vehicle; or
 4. a trailer designated for the type of Animal.
- r) **Pound Keeper** means any person or persons duly authorized to operate the Designated Animal Shelter and may include a Peace Officer or Municipal Bylaw Officer.
- s) **Premises Identification Number** means a unique identifying series of numbers and letters assigned by the Government of Alberta, which links the traceability of Livestock to land locations or premises.
- t) **Public Property** means all property owned by or under the control and management of the Municipal District.
- u) **S.P.C.A.** means the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.
- v) **Subdivision** means four or more adjacent lots within the Municipal District, each lot consisting of five acres or less.
- w) **Vicious Animal** shall mean any Animal, which has, without provocation, chased, injured or bitten any other Animal, or human, or threatened other Animals or humans and which, in the opinion of the Animal Control Officer poses a threat of harm and has been declared to be a Vicious Animal in accordance with this Bylaw.
- x) **Violation Ticket** shall mean a ticket issued pursuant to the *Provincial Offences Procedure Act*, R.S.A. 2000, c. P-34, as amended.
- y) **Wild Boar** means an animal from the species *Sus scrofa* but does not refer to the animal commonly known as a domestic pig.

3. Responsibilities of Owner

- 3.1 No person shall Keep an Animal in the Municipal District except in accordance with this Bylaw and the Responsible Animal Ownership Policy, as amended from time to time.
- 3.2 No person shall keep or harbor any cat or dog that is six months or older within the Municipal District unless such Domestic Animal is licensed as herein provided.
- 3.3 Any person who resides within the Municipal District and is the Owner of a cat or dog six months or older shall obtain a license tag by applying to the Municipal District office or to an agent approved by the Municipal District.
- 3.4 Upon receipt of a completed application, the Municipal District shall grant, free of charge, licenses for any Domestic Animal six months or older in the Municipal District.
- 3.5 Any person residing in the Municipal District who becomes the Owner of a cat or dog or any person who takes up residence within the Municipal District and who is the Owner of a cat or dog which is not currently licensed in accordance with the Animal Control Bylaw, shall within fourteen calendar days of taking up residence within the Municipal District, obtain a license for their cat or dog.
- 3.6 Every application for a license tag shall include the following information:
 - 3.6.1 Name, street or rural address and phone number of the Owner;
 - 3.6.2 Name, type, and description of the cat or dog to be licensed: and
 - 3.6.3 Such other relevant and necessary information as may be required and requested by the Municipal District.
- 3.7 When a cat or dog that is currently licensed in accordance with the provision of this Animal Control Bylaw is transferred to a different Owner within the Municipal District, that Owner shall immediately apply for a new license and provide the Municipal District with his/her name, street, or rural address and phone number within fourteen calendar days upon becoming the Owner of the cat or dog.
- 3.8 License tags issued under this Animal Control Bylaw shall not be transferable from one cat or dog to another and will remain in effect until such time as the cat or dog dies, has a new Owner, or is permanently removed from the Municipal District.
- 3.9 Upon receipt of a completed application for a cat or dog license tag, the Municipal District will supply the Owner with a metal license tag stamped with a number which is registered to that cat or dog.
- 3.10 Every Owner shall ensure that the license tag is securely fastened to a choke chain, collar, or harness that must be worn by the cat or dog at all times whenever the cat or dog is at any place other than the property of the Owner.
- 3.11 The Owner of a cat or dog that has been duly licensed under the Animal Control Bylaw may obtain a license tag to replace a tag that has been lost. Any Owner of a cat or dog that no longer requires a license is encouraged to return the tag or report this change to the Municipal District to ensure accurate record keeping.
- 3.12 The provisions of Sections 3.1 to 3.11, inclusive shall not apply to persons temporarily in the Municipal District for a period not exceeding two weeks, nor to holders of a valid and subsisting Development Permit authorizing the operation of a Kennel, as approved in accordance with the Municipal District Land Use Bylaw.
- 3.13 No Owner shall permit an Animal to be At Large in the Municipal District.
- 3.14 A maximum of three cats and six dogs may be kept on a lot at any time with the exception of those lots located within the Agricultural (A) district, as defined in the Municipal District's Land Use Bylaw.
- 3.15 In the Residential Serviced (RS), Residential Un-Serviced (RUS) and Urban Reserve (UR) districts, as defined in the Municipal District's Land Use Bylaw, the keeping of Animals shall only be permitted in accordance with "Schedule A" to this Bylaw.
- 3.16 In the Residential Serviced (RS), Residential Un-Serviced (RUS) and Urban Reserve (UR) districts, as defined in the Municipal District's Land Use Bylaw, no male Fowl are permitted.

- 3.17 No person shall Keep or harbor any Wild Boar or feral swine within the Municipal District.
- 3.18 No Owner shall permit their Animal to bark, howl, crow, make excessive noise, or in any manner disturb the quiet of any person within the Municipal District.
- 3.19 The Owner of an Animal shall ensure that such Animal shall not generally become a public nuisance within the Municipal District and specifically shall ensure that such Animal shall not:
 - 3.19.1 Run at, bite, attack, threaten, harass, chase, kill or injure any person including, but not limited to, when such person is on a bicycle, horseback, or while walking or running;
 - 3.19.2 Run at, bite, attack, threaten, harass, chase, kill or injure any Livestock, Fowl, or Domestic Animals belonging to other persons;
 - 3.19.3 Run at, bite, attack, bark at automobiles, or other vehicles;
 - 3.19.4 Bark, howl, or crow excessively, make excessive noise, or in any other manner disturb the peace, quiet or repose of a person. After a third offence within a calendar year, if the Animal is still barking, howling, crowing, or creating a disturbance the Animal may be ordered removed from the Hamlet or Subdivision upon written order from an Animal Control Officer;
 - 3.19.5 Cause Damage or cause injury or damage to other Animals;
 - 3.19.6 Upset any garbage receptacle or scatter the contents of any garbage receptacles;
 - 3.19.7 Chase or harass wild animals or other Animals; and
 - 3.19.8 Be out of Physical Control.
- 3.20 The Owner of a female Domestic Animal shall also ensure that when such Domestic Animal is in season/heat that such Domestic Animal is not kept at any location where the Domestic Animal is a source of attraction to other animals.
- 3.21 Any incident of an Animal that bites a person must be promptly reported to the Animal Control Officer and the Animal may be quarantined at the direction of the Animal Control Officer and shall not be released from such quarantine except by written permission of a veterinarian. At the discretion of the Animal Control Officer such quarantine may be at the premises of the Owner or at the Designated Animal Shelter. In the case of stray Animals whose ownership is not known, such quarantine shall be at the Designated Animal Shelter.
- 3.22 Upon demand made by the Animal Control Officer the Owner shall forthwith surrender any Animal which has bitten a person, or which is suspected of having been exposed to rabies, for supervised quarantine. The expense of the supervised quarantine will be the sole responsibility of the Owner and the Animal may only be reclaimed by the Owner, if a veterinarian determines it is free of rabies, upon payment of any expenses, costs, or fees associated with the supervised quarantine, and, in the case of an Animal that has bitten a person, upon complying with the licensing provisions of this Bylaw.
- 3.23 In the event of an outbreak or threatened outbreak of rabies or any disease affecting Animals which may be transmitted to human beings, the Bylaw Coordinator, by virtue of this Bylaw, may direct that all Animals be securely tied up by the Owner or be otherwise effectively confined. Any Animal found At Large in contravention of this section shall be impounded and may be destroyed.
- 3.24 When an Animal under quarantine has been diagnosed as rabid or is suspected by a licensed veterinarian as being rabid, and dies while under such observation, the Animal Control Officer shall immediately send the head of such animal to the appropriate Health Department for pathological examination and shall notify the Medical Officer of Health for the Municipal District of reports and human contacts and the diagnosis made of the Animal.
- 3.25 During such period of rabies quarantine as herein mentioned, every animal bitten by an infected animal adjudged to be rabid, shall be forthwith destroyed or, at the Owner's expense and option, be treated for rabies infection by a licensed veterinarian or held under quarantine by the Owner in the same manner as other Animals are quarantined.
- 3.26 Except as herein provided, no person shall kill, or cause to be killed, any rabid Animal, or any Animal suspected of having been exposed to rabies, or any Animal that has bitten a human, nor remove such Animal from the Municipal District without prior written permission from the Animal Control Officer.

- 3.27 The carcass of any dead Animal exposed to rabies shall, upon demand, be surrendered to the Animal Control Officer. The Animal Control Officer shall direct the disposition of any Animal found to be infected with rabies.
- 3.28 When, in the opinion of a licensed veterinarian and/or Animal Control Officer, an Animal should be destroyed for humane reasons, such as severe injury, severe illness, or disease, such Animal may not be redeemed by the Animal's Owner.
- 3.29 No action shall be taken against any person acting pursuant to their authority under the Animal Control Bylaw for damages relating to the destruction or other disposal of any Animal conducted in accordance with this Bylaw.
- 3.30 No person shall interfere with, hinder, or obstruct the Animal Control Officer in the performance of any of their duties under the Animal Control Bylaw.
- 3.31 No person shall remove, or attempt to remove, any Animal from the possession of the Animal Control Officer, or any person authorized to enforce any of the provisions of the Animal Control Bylaw.
- 3.32 No person shall Abandon an Animal.

4. Vicious Animals

- 4.1 The Bylaw Coordinator may designate an Animal to be a Vicious Animal where:
 - 4.1.1 the Animal has caused severe injury to a person;
 - 4.1.2 the Animal has caused severe injury to another Domestic Animal;
 - 4.1.3 the Animal has exhibited threatening behaviour, whether on the Owner's property or other Public Property or private property; or
 - 4.1.4 there are reasonable and probable grounds to believe the Animal poses a risk to the health and safety of persons in the Municipal District.
- 4.2 The Owner of a Vicious Animal shall within five days after the Animal has been declared vicious:
 - 4.2.1 have a licensed veterinarian tattoo or implant an electronic identification microchip in or on the Vicious Animal identifying the Animal with a unique identifier to the Animal;
 - 4.2.2 provide the information contained on the tattoo or in the microchip to the Municipal District; and
 - 4.2.3 have the Vicious Animal spayed or neutered if such a procedure has not yet been carried out on the Animal.
- 4.3 The Owner of a Vicious Animal shall:
 - 4.3.1 forthwith notify the Municipal District should the Vicious Animal be sold, gifted, or transferred to another person or die; and
 - 4.3.2 remain liable for the actions of the Vicious Animal until formal notification of sale, gift, or transfer is given to the Municipal District.
- 4.4 An Owner must confine every Vicious Animal within a building, confinement apparatus, or secure enclosure constructed to prevent the escape of the Animal, and capable of preventing the entry of young children and shall not take such Animal out of such building or secure enclosure unless such Animal is securely muzzled and attached to a Permitted Leash. Such secure enclosure 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 depth of one foot.
- 4.5 With regards to the behavior of a Vicious Animal, the Owner of a Vicious Animal shall:
 - 4.5.1 ensure that such Vicious Animal does not engage in any threatening behaviors prohibited by this Bylaw;
 - 4.5.2 ensure that such Vicious Animal does not damage or destroy private or Public Property;
 - 4.5.3 ensure that such Vicious Animal is not At Large; and

- 4.5.4 forthwith notify the Municipal District of the Vicious Animal being At Large in the event of escape.

5. Livestock Management

- 5.1 Every person who has the care or control of Livestock, and every person who owns a property where Livestock are Kept shall, as required by the Municipal District, complete a Manure and Surface Water Management Plan and Animal Emergency Response Plan, as provided by the Municipal District.
- 5.2 The Livestock Owner may request assistance from the Municipal District in completing the above plans. The Municipal District, in its sole discretion, may decline to provide assistance in the event that it does not have the staffing or administrative capacity to assist.
- 5.3 The Municipal District may request a copy of the plans as listed above from any Owner of Livestock at any time.
- 5.4 The Municipal District may request a Premises Identification Number from the Owner of Livestock at any time.
- 5.5 A designated officer of the Municipal District is authorized to conduct inspections and enforcement where authorized under the Municipal Government Act or other Provincial or Federal legislation.

6. Powers of an Animal Control Officer

- 6.1 The Animal Control Officer is authorized to capture by any reasonable means and impound in the Designated Animal Shelter, all Animals found in contravention of the Animal Control Bylaw and all Animals which the Animal Control Officer finds wounded, distressed, Abandoned, or diseased.
- 6.2 The Animal Control Officer is authorized to take such reasonable measures as are necessary to subdue such Animals including the use of tranquilizer equipment and material. If any such Animal is seriously injured, it shall be taken to a veterinarian for treatment to relieve pain or bleeding, then immediately to the Designated Animal Shelter.
- 6.3 Animals that display aggressive behavior or pose an immediate threat to human safety may be destroyed by the Animal Control Officer provided all other reasonable measures have been exhausted. The Animal Control Officer is authorized to discharge firearms to destroy Animals in the performance of their duties, provided the Animal Control Officer is a Peace Officer under the *Peace Officers Act*, S.A. 2006, c P-3.5 or is a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.
- 6.4 All impounded Animals shall be kept in the Designated Animal Shelter for a period of no more than seventy-two hours. Sundays and Statutory Holidays shall not be included in the computation of the seventy-two hour period. Subject to Section 3.28, any non-rabid Animal may be redeemed by its Owner, upon payment of the specified fees as set out in “Schedule B” to this Bylaw to the Municipal District’s authorized agent, which include the following:
- 6.4.1 The cost of any veterinary treatment required.
- 6.4.2 Expenses incurred impounding and caring for an Animal; and
- 6.4.3 Impoundment fees in the sum set out in “Schedule B” to this Bylaw for every twenty-four hour period or portion thereof that the Animal has been impounded.
- 6.5 Any Animal impounded and not redeemed within seventy-two hours, may be sold, surrendered to an animal rescue, or destroyed by the Pound Keeper or other persons authorized by the Municipal District.
- 6.6 The Bylaw Coordinator shall make all rules and regulations, consistent with this Bylaw, pertaining to the administration of the Designated Animal Shelter.

The Animal Control Officer is authorized to conduct investigations in conjunction with provincial and/or federal regulatory bodies and agencies (such as the S.P.C.A), as necessary.

7. Offences

- 7.1 Any person who contravenes any provision of the Animal Control Bylaw is guilty of an offence.
- 7.2 Persons who have contravened this Bylaw shall be liable for the penalties set out in “Schedule B” which forms part of this Bylaw.
- 7.3 Notwithstanding Section 7.2 of the Animal Control Bylaw, any person who commits a second or subsequent offence under the Animal Control Bylaw within one year of committing the first offence shall be liable to a penalty that is double the amount of the first offence as set out in “Schedule B” which forms part of this Bylaw.
- 7.4 Except as otherwise provided in this Bylaw, a person who is guilty of an offence under this Bylaw for which a penalty is not otherwise specified in “Schedule B”, is liable upon conviction to a penalty of not more than \$500.00 and in default of payment, is liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months.
- 7.5 Upon convicting the Owner of an Animal of an offence under this Bylaw, the presiding Justice of the Peace may, in addition to any other penalties imposed or orders made and without further notice or hearing, declare the subject Animal to be a Vicious Animal under this Bylaw, and may make an order directing any one or more of the following:
- 7.5.1 The Owner of such Animal, to confine or muzzle such Animal for such period as the presiding Justice of the Peace may determine;
- 7.5.2 The Owner of such Animal, to forthwith deliver such Animal to the Pound Keeper who shall forthwith destroy or arrange for the destruction of such Animal; or
- 7.5.3 The Owner of such Animal, to remove such Animal from within the corporate boundaries of the Municipal District.

8. Violation Tickets

- 8.1 A Violation Ticket may be issued by an Animal Control Officer to any person alleged to have breached any provision of this Bylaw.
- 8.2 A Violation Ticket shall be deemed to be properly served:
- 8.2.1 if served personally on the accused; or
- 8.2.2 if left at the accused's last known address with someone who appears to be over the age of eighteen.
- 8.3 Where a contravention of the Animal Control Bylaw is of a continuing nature, further Violation Tickets for the same offence may be issued by the Animal Control Officer, provided however, that no more than one Violation Ticket for the same offence may be issued for each day that the contravention continues.
- 8.4 Any person who shall interfere, hinder, delay or obstruct any person or persons engaged in enforcing any provision of this bylaw or impounding any Animal liable to be impounded under the provisions of this bylaw, shall, for each and every hindrance, delay or obstruction, be guilty of an offence and liable upon conviction to a penalty as provided in “Schedule B” to this Bylaw.
- 8.5 Any person who shall deliberately or willfully injure, hurt, or otherwise harm any Animal shall be guilty of an offence and be liable to a penalty as provided in “Schedule B” to this Bylaw.

9. Administration

- 9.1 Each section of this Bylaw shall be read and construed as being separate and severable from each other section. Furthermore, should any section or part of this Bylaw be found to have been improperly enacted, for any reason, then such section or part shall be regarded as being severable from the rest of this Bylaw and the Bylaw remaining after such severance shall be effective and enforceable.
- 9.2 “Schedule A” and “Schedule B” to this Bylaw form part of the Bylaw.

9.3 Any fee or penalty imposed under this Bylaw shall be to the benefit of the Municipal District of Lesser Slave River No. 124.

10. Enactment / Transition

10.1 Bylaw No. 2021-11 is hereby rescinded.

10.2 This Bylaw shall come into force and effect upon signing.

READ a first time,

this _____ day of _____, 2025.

READ a second time,

this _____ day of _____, 2025.

READ a third time and finally passed,

this _____ day of _____, 2025.

Reeve

Chief Administrative Officer

Schedule A: Animal Units

This Schedule is applicable to the keeping of Animals in the Residential Serviced (RS), Residential Un-Serviced (RUS) and Urban Reserve (UR) districts only, as defined in the Municipal District’s Land Use Bylaw.

In these districts, Animals may be kept in accordance with the Animal Types and Units as specified in the “Animal Chart” below, which is applicable to lots equal to or greater than one acre (ac) in size. For lots less than one acre in size, the following combination of Animal Types are permitted: Fowl, rabbits, and beehives (but only up to a maximum of two beehives), to a maximum of 1 animal unit in total.

A total combination of one Animal Unit will be permitted per every acre of land.

Animal Chart (for RS, RUS, and UR Districts- with lots equal to or greater than one acre in size):

Animal Type*	# of animals = 1 Animal Unit
Horse (over 1 year old)	1
Foals (up to 1 year old)	1
Cow/Bison (over 1 year old)	1
Calf (up to 1 year old)	1
Llama	1
Alpaca	2
Pig (over 1 year old)	1
Piglet (up to 1 year old)	2
Fowl – hens, duck, geese, turkey, quail, pigeons, pheasants, guinea fowl	12
Sheep	2
Goat	2
Rabbits (and similar rodents)	20
Other fur bearing animals	1
Beehives (lots less than one acre = maximum of two beehives)	2

**Animals that are not weaned are not counted towards Animal units.*

Schedule B: Penalties/Fees

<u>Section</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Penalty/Fee</u>
3.2	Failure to obtain a dog or cat license	\$60.00
3.10	Failure to ensure that a collar and license tag are worn when a Domestic Animal is off the premises of the owner	\$60.00
3.13	Permit an Animal to be At Large	\$100.00
3.17	Keeping of Wild Boar/feral swine	\$500.00
3.18	Permit an Animal to bark, howl, crow, make excessive noise, or in any manner disturb the quiet of any person	\$400.00
3.19.1	Permit an Animal to run at, bite, attack, threaten, harass, chase, kill or injure any person including, but not limited to, when such person is on a bicycle, horseback, or while walking or running	\$500.00
3.19.2	Permit an Animal to run at, bite, attack, threaten, harass, chase, kill or injure any Livestock, Fowl, or Domestic Animals	\$500.00
3.19.3	Permit an Animal to run at, bite, attack, bark at automobiles, or other vehicles	\$500.00
3.19.5	Permit an Animal to Cause damage to property or other Animals	\$100.00
3.19.6	Permit an Animal to upset any garbage receptacle or scatter the contents of any garbage receptacles	\$100.00
3.19.7	Permit an Animal to chase or harass wildlife or other animals	\$100.00
3.19.8	Permit an Animal to not be under Physical Control	\$100.00
3.20	Failure to confine and house a female Domestic Animal in heat	\$100.00
3.32	Abandon any Animal	\$500.00
4.4	Failure to confine a Vicious Animal	\$500.00
6.4.3	Impoundment Fees per twenty-four (24) hour period or portion thereof	\$100.00
7.3	Second or subsequent offence within one (1) year	Double the penalty amount of the first offence
8.4	Interfere, hinder, delay or obstruct with enforcement of the Domestic Animal Control Bylaw Animal Control Bylaw	\$500.00
8.5	Deliberate/willful cause harm to an Animal	\$500.00