

BYLAW 21337 - Amendments to the Animal Care and Control Bylaw 21244

Recommendation

That Community and Public Services Committee recommend to City Council:

That Bylaw 21337 be given the appropriate readings.

Purpose

To propose minor amendments to the Bylaw 21244 - Animal Care and Control Bylaw and address housekeeping items. These include rectifying the licensing fee for spayed and neutered cats, adjusting part of the dog attack scale for enforceability, specifically where chasing may cause physical injury, and minor clarifying and formatting changes.

Readings

Bylaw 21337 is ready for three readings.

A majority vote of City Council on all three readings is required for passage.

If Council wishes to give three readings during a single meeting, then prior to moving to third reading, Council must unanimously agree “That Bylaw 21337 be considered for third reading.”

REPORT

Bylaw 21244 - Animal Care and Control Bylaw was approved by Council at the August 19, 2025, City Council meeting, as detailed in the August 11, 2025, Community Services report CS03105. Bylaw 21244 requires minor amendments to address housekeeping items. These include correcting the licensing fee for spayed and neutered cats, adjusting a portion of the dog attack scale to improve enforceability, particularly concerning instances where chasing could lead to physical injury, and correcting the coming into force date to May 19, 2026, in alignment with report CS03105. The amending bylaw is provided as Attachment 1 and the redline version is included as Attachment 2.

Spayed and Neutered Cat Licence Fee

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Bylaw 21244 focuses on several key areas of cat licensing. It addresses the continued pet licensing requirements for cats, offers licensing discounts for spayed or neutered cats and implements a small incremental increase in pet licensing fees every year for three years, while balancing community support through accessible licensing.

This update provides the intended fee schedule for spayed and neutered cats, increasing affordability and promoting compliance with licensing requirements. This fee structure provides an important incentive for pet owners to have their cats spayed or neutered, reinforcing best practices in cat population management. All other licence fees remain the same. The spayed or neutered cat licence fee in Schedule A requires a correction as indicated in the chart below.

Spayed/Neutered Cat Licence Fee Schedule

Year	Current Fee	Corrected Fee
2025	\$22	N/A
2026	\$38	\$23
2027	\$39	\$24
2028	\$40	\$25

Dogs Chasing Causing Injury

Bylaw 21244 - Animal Care and Control Bylaw introduces a tiered enforcement structure for dog attack offences (Section 14), with more serious consequences to address the significant increase in complaints. To continue prioritizing and protecting public safety, it was determined that Section 14(1)(b) should include the term “chase” for instances where a dog aggressively chases a person, resulting in physical injury. This approach reflects what we heard from residents during public engagement.

These minor revisions can be implemented immediately and will maintain the original schedule for the Animal Care and Control Bylaw to take effect on May 19, 2026.

Community Insight

A Two-Phase Community-Centred Approach

A multi-phased public opinion research and ‘advise-level’ engagement process was conducted to ensure this bylaw reflects the values and priorities of Edmontonians and pet owners alike. More than 18,400 responses were received over both phases of the project. Detailed attachments showing results of this engagement process can be found in the June 2, 2025, Community Services report CS02833, Animal Licensing and Control Bylaw Renewal.

Phase 1, from May to November 2023, focused on public input regarding the Animal Licensing and Control Bylaw, gathering diverse perspectives on necessary changes. Engagement included

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targeted sessions, an Engaged Edmonton online forum, a virtual session, pop-ups, focus groups and interviews. An online survey received 8,094 responses, one of the highest completion rates among City surveys in 2023.

Phase 2, from May to August 2024, focused on specific policy areas identified in Phase 1. Input was gathered across all 12 wards through various activities, including an in-person event, pop-up events, virtual forums, dog park speakerboards and interviews, with a focus on prioritizing diverse perspectives. An online survey for the Edmonton Insight Community, the public and a third-party panel received 8,949 responses.

Feedback from both phases informed the development of the new Animal Care and Control bylaw, which reflects the need to protect animal welfare, promote responsible pet ownership and enhance public safety.

Budget/Financial Implications

This amendment fulfills the commitments made previously to Council and Edmontonians. As outlined in the August 11, 2025, Community Services report CS03105, Bylaw 21244 - Animal Care and Control Bylaw, the minor licensing increases over a three year period are expected to minimally offset the cost impacts of increased service demand, veterinary medical services and supplies, shelter care and animal transfer fees. The corrected fee reflects the intended licence fee that Council approved on August 19, 2025, including the minor incremental increase each year from 2026 to 2028.

Attachments

1. Bylaw 21337
2. Bylaw 21244 REDLINE

Others Reviewing the Report

- M. Gunther, Acting City Solicitor