

Standard of care for dogs

Under the new *Animal Protection and Control Act*

Through past engagement we heard that Yukoners want the well-being and interests of animals to be protected. This includes setting high standards of care for all domestic animals in the Yukon.

The new legislation requires owners to provide the following in a manner appropriate to the age, species and type of animal:

- Food and water sufficient to maintain a healthy body condition and adequate hydration;
- Shelter that provides adequate ventilation, protection from injurious heat and cold, excludes predators and provides sanitary living conditions;
- Living conditions that support the health and well-being of the animal and minimize the risk of injury;
- Opportunity for exercise and socialization; and
- Adequate care to address medical or health needs to prevent the animal from persisting in a state of ill health or suffering.

The Act includes the option to adopt standards of care (often called codes of practice) that have been created by specialists for each species or category of animals to align Yukon requirements with those that are nationally accepted.

Yukoners recognize the unique role and value of sled dogs. There are standards for their care in other jurisdictions. While they should not be held to a higher standard of welfare compared to other dogs, it is useful to reference welfare standards for sled dogs. These might also apply to other dogs that live outdoors, such as livestock guardians.

Which standard, if any, should be adopted in the regulation for sled dogs?

We are seeking the opinion of sled dog owners on these options:

Option 1: Mush with P.R.I.D.E Sled Dog Care Guidelines

Option 2: British Columbia's Sled Dog Standards of Care Regulation

Option 3: No established standard, the requirements of the Act will apply.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:
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