

Enforcement of the new *Animal Protection and Control Act*

Through previous engagement we heard that Yukoners need an enforcement framework that provides more local autonomy to manage animals and address public safety concerns in their communities.

The new *Animal Protection and Control Act* establishes requirements for care and control of animals that apply across the Yukon. These will be enforced by Government of Yukon Animal Protection and Control Officers.

In addition, the Act authorizes agreements with local governments to appoint Deputy Animal Protection and Control officers. These individuals will have authority to issue tickets and enforce specific aspects of the new laws.

By expanding the enforcement framework, we enable a more rapid response to animal care and control issues.

Implementation details

- Enforcement will still be driven by complaints and reports from the public. These complaints result in an inspection or investigation. Tickets may be issued for most minor offences.
- The primary intent of enforcement is to educate and encourage compliance, not to charge individuals with an offence or take animals away. Officers will work with owners to bring them into compliance with the Act.
- Officers will be able to use their discretion when assessing the severity of an offence and will use orders as a tool to guide individuals into compliance. Owners will be subject to inspections to ensure they are meeting the requirements of the order.
- In situations where there is prosecution, there is a list of alternative penalties in the Act. It is important to recognize that prison time and fines are not the best option because they often make the situation worse for animals that are at risk.

- The Government of Yukon may now enter into agreements with local governments and appoint deputy animal protection and control officers to enforce the Act.
- Examples of deputy powers include:
 - Issuing tickets or orders;
 - Taking animals into custody, including those at large;
 - Taking action to give effect to an order;
 - Inspecting operations that keep animals.
- While the Government of Yukon will have primary responsibility for enforcement, we want to enable local, more rapid response to improve the safety of the community, especially when a community lacks bylaws.
- This will not impact local bylaws; the Act creates territorial requirements for welfare and control but communities can continue to define and enforce their bylaws.
- The Government of Yukon will provide training and resources to support deputy officers, where there is a need.
- The agreements with each community would define roles, responsibilities and requirements including for potential financial support.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:
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