



# ANIMAL SERVICES RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP BYLAW



[winnipeg.ca/RPObylaw](http://winnipeg.ca/RPObylaw)

**AUGUST 2021**

# Animal Services

What we do:

- Enforce the Responsible Pet Ownership By-law (RPO)
- Provide emergency response 24/7 (Police-Fire-Humane)
- Provide animal care including redemptions and adoptions
- Dog and cat licensing
- Provide public outreach
  - Build healthy and safe communities
  - Social media platforms
  - Northern Manitoba
  - Responsible pet ownership education
- Offer low income spay/neuter programming
- Regulate dogs, cats, exotic animals, livestock
- Volunteer opportunities
- Doggie Dates



# Responsible Pet Ownership By-law review

- The Responsible Pet Ownership By-Law regulates the presence of wild and domesticated animals within Winnipeg, their activities, and the activities of their owners.
- Since the By-law came into force in 2013, opportunities have been identified to strengthen the bylaw to improve the safety of both pets and the community.
- Best practices in animal control and welfare have also evolved since the last review.
- The City is proposing to update the bylaw to improve animal and community safety by ensuring that animals are properly cared for and not placed in at-risk scenarios.





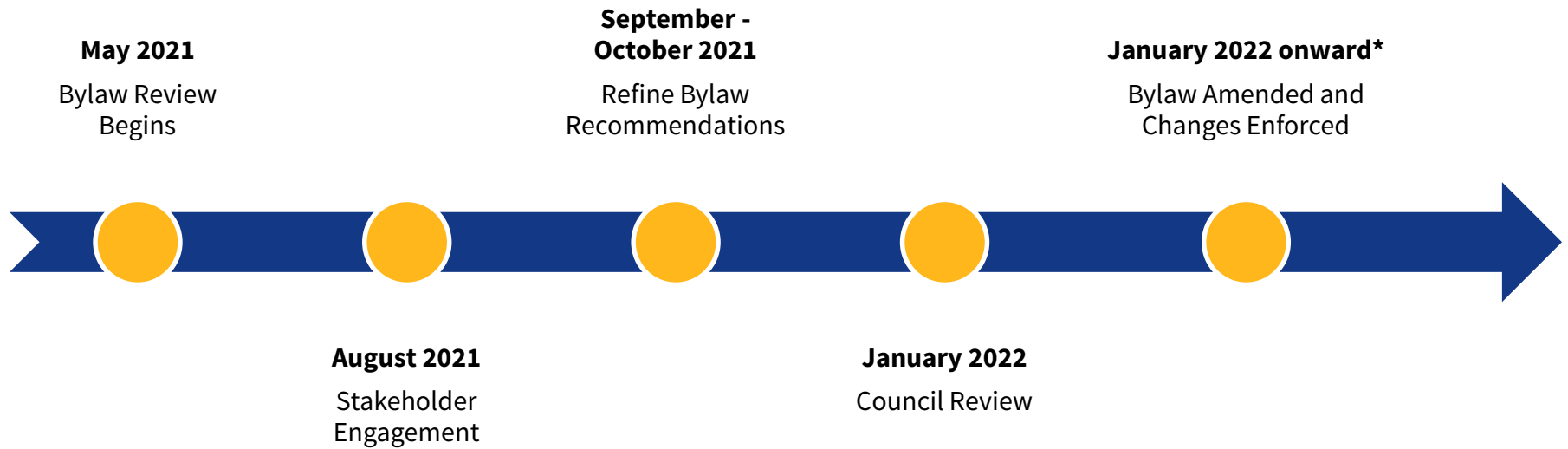
# Stakeholder engagement

- The City is reaching out to stakeholder organizations to get feedback on the proposed updates to the By-law.
- The objectives are to:
  - Inform about current pet ownership issues
  - Inform about the need to update the bylaw
  - Share proposed updates to the bylaw
  - Gather feedback from stakeholders on the updates
- Stakeholder feedback will be used to refine the proposed updates, which will be presented to Council in winter 2021/2022 for consideration.

Send feedback to:

[RPObylaw@winnipeg.ca](mailto:RPObylaw@winnipeg.ca)

# Timeline



**\*Subject to council approval**

# Let's make Winnipeg a leader in animal control and welfare



Partners  
in Caring



WINNIPEG  
HUMANE SOCIETY

# Overpopulation of dogs and cats

## Issues:

- Results in euthanization
- Places a strain on animal shelters and rescues
- Leads to disease issues with lack of veterinary care
- Dogs and cats that are not fixed can demonstrate aggressive behaviors and an urgency to roam

## Draft idea:

1. Spay/neuter (fixing) requirement for all dogs and cats over 6 months of age

## Exemptions:

- Animals with an intact pet licence
  - Veterinarian reference
  - History of responsible pet ownership under the RPO
- Animals with medical issues and a veterinarian reference
- Service dogs, law enforcement dogs and specially titled dogs (agility, herding)

## Additional information:

- Impounded unlicensed strays are fixed prior to release
- Any dog or cat impounded twice in a lifetime is fixed prior to release regardless of license
- Fixed dogs and cats received a discount on their annual pet licence
- Fixing provides some health benefits
- Improves public safety (roaming)
- Low income spay/neuter assistance available



# At risk pets

## Issues:

- A community may be at risk due to an animal's behaviour or confinement
- An animal may be at risk due to general care, housing, or lack of veterinary care
- Irresponsible pet ownership leads to problematic pets

## Draft ideas:

1. Create an 'At Risk' category for pets owned by irresponsible pet owners
  - Allows requirements to be placed on a pet owner to proactively improve community safety or the quality of life of a pet
2. Update 'Dangerous Dog' category to:
  - Require training and harness use
  - Indicate failure to comply with requirements associated with a Dangerous Dog Designation will result in seizure and rehoming or euthanization of a dog
  - Prohibit outdoor 24/7 guard dogs
  - Prohibit attendance at dog daycares and off leash areas
  - Remove existing requirement for insurance
  - Remove appeal option
3. Update 'Exceptionally Dangerous Dog' category to:
  - Remove appeal option
4. Prohibit temporary or permanent ownership based on excessive RPO violations and/or:
  - A person's existing pets are designated as at risk, dangerous, or exceptionally dangerous
  - An animal would be considered at risk or needing protection if left in custody of individual





# Animal and public safety

## Issues:

- Animal safety, public safety, and neighbourhood livability issues exist as a result of 24/7 tethering/chaining and dog house use
- Dog daycares are currently unregulated

## Draft ideas:

1. Prohibit 24/7 chaining/tethering and 24/7 outdoor dog housing
  - Require supervision
2. Require excess animal permits and minimum best practice standards for dog daycares
  - \*Excess animal permits allows residents to harbour more than the legal limit of pets



# Pet and public safety

## Issue:

- As of June 22, 2021, the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service has responded to 32 emergency calls for pets left in cars

## Draft ideas:

1. Prohibit leaving dogs and cats unattended in vehicles when the outside temperature is at or warmer than 22C, or at or colder than -10C
2. Prohibit cycling with dogs tethered to the bicycle when 22C or greater

## Exemption:

- Exemption for vehicles running with working air-conditioning system





# Breeding

## Issues:

- Unregulated breeding, also known as 'backyard breeding', contributes to pet overpopulation, animal welfare concerns, and public safety issues.

## Draft ideas:

1. Require a breeding permit for dogs and cats that requires:
  - A veterinarian reference
  - History of responsible pet ownership under the RPO
  - Inspection of the breeding property
  - Limit of one litter per year, and no more than four litters over the life of the animal
  - Display of permit number where puppies or kittens are advertised for sale



# Breed-specific legislation

## Issues:

- The City of Winnipeg and the Province of Ontario are the only major jurisdictions in Canada with breed specific legislation
- Identification of prohibited dogs is difficult and based only on how a dog looks
- The breed does not reflect the animal's behavior

## Draft idea:

1. Remove breed specific legislation
  - Treat dogs based on their behaviour and the associated responsibility of their owners
  - Use RPO categories, spay/neuter, and prohibitions to address irresponsible pet ownership

## Additional Information:

- Currently, American Pit Bull Terriers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers, American Staffordshire Terriers, and predominant mixes are prohibited





# Keeping of exotic animals



## The Five Freedoms\* is a core concept in animal welfare:

1. Freedom from **hunger and thirst** by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour.
2. Freedom from **discomfort** by providing an appropriate environment, including shelter and a comfortable resting area.
3. Freedom from **pain, injury or disease** by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.
4. Freedom to **express normal behaviour** by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind.
5. Freedom from **fear and distress** by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.

*\*The Five Freedoms is a core concept in animal welfare that originated in a UK government report in 1965 and was then refined by the Farm Animal Welfare Council.*

# Keeping of exotic animals

According to World Animal Protection, there are over 500 species of reptiles and 500 species of birds traded live across the world, destined for people's homes or private zoos. The global trade of wildlife causes millions of animals around the world to suffer each year.

## **Example - Ball python**

A python species native to West and Central Africa, where it lives in grasslands, shrublands and open forests.

In Winnipeg, snakes live in terrariums or plastic containers.




**Informational video regarding Ball pythons and the exotic pet trade**

\*Produced by World Animal Protection



# Keeping of exotic animals



 **Winnipeg Lost Dog Alert Inc.** 5m · 🌐

\*\*\* MISSING \*\*\*  
- Please Share!  
Heading North on June 2, 2021 at approx 5:00 pm.

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS NOT THE SAME MACAW THAT WAS FOUND RECENTLY IN EAST ST. PAUL

a female Greenwing macaw, has red, green, blue, some yellow feathers. Is timid/shy.

Email from June 11, 2021 [#WLDA](#)





# Keeping of exotic animals

## Issues:

- Exotic animals are either poached from the wild or born in captivity
- Exotic animals have little quality of life in captivity
- There are currently no limits like dogs and cats, which can lead to hoarding
- Stray exotic animals require law enforcement resources

## Draft ideas:

1. Reduce the types and amounts of exotic animals allowed as pets
  - a) Allowable animals (see next slides)
  - b) Limited animals
    - Previously legal animals
    - Can be grandfathered
    - If rehomed, must leave Winnipeg
    - No travelling shows using limited animals
    - May not be bred
2. Limit each household to five animals per animal 'family'. This limit is separate to the pre-existing limit set for dogs and cats.
  - For example, one household could own/harbour five snakes, five lizards, and five birds

## Exemptions:

- Animals under the age of six months
- Feeder type insects, invertebrates

## Additional Information:

- The RPO contains a limit of six dogs and cats, of which four can be dogs



# Allowable animals

| Mammals                            |                               |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Carnivora                          |                               |
| (Domestic) Cat                     | <i>Felis Catus</i>            |
| (Domestic) Dog                     | <i>Canis lupus familiaris</i> |
| (Domestic) Ferret                  | <i>Mustela putorius furo</i>  |
| Lagomorpha                         |                               |
| European Rabbit                    | <i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>  |
| Rodentia                           |                               |
| Guinea Pig                         | <i>Cavia porcellus</i>        |
| Gerbil                             | <i>Meriones unguiculatus</i>  |
| Hamster                            | <i>Mesocricetus auratus</i>   |
| House Mouse                        | <i>Mus musculus</i>           |
| Norway (Common, Brown) Rat         | <i>Rattus norvegicus</i>      |
| Black (Roof, White Laboratory) Rat | <i>Rattus rattus</i>          |
| Common degu                        | <i>Octodon degus</i>          |
| Bushy-tailed Jird                  | <i>Sekeetamys calurus</i>     |

# Allowable animals

| Reptiles                     |                                  |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Squamata                     |                                  |
| Zebra-tailed Lizard          | <i>Callisaurus draconoides</i>   |
| Collared Lizard              | <i>Crotaphytus collaris</i>      |
| Long-nosed Leopard Lizard    | <i>Gambelia wislizenii</i>       |
| Curly-tailed Lizards         | <i>Leiocephalus spp.</i>         |
| Northern Curly-tailed Lizard | <i>Leiocephalus carinatus</i>    |
| Bearded Dragon               | <i>Pogona vitticeps</i>          |
| Star Agama Lizard            | <i>Stellagama stellio</i>        |
| Northern Spiny-tailed Gecko  | <i>Strophurus ciliaris</i>       |
| Crested Gecko                | <i>Correlophus ciliatus</i>      |
| Leopard Gecko                | <i>Eublepharis macularius</i>    |
| Gargoyle Gecko               | <i>Rhacodactylus auriculatus</i> |
| Serpentes                    |                                  |
| Milk Snake                   | <i>Lampropeltis triangulum</i>   |
| Common King Snake            | <i>Lampropeltis getula</i>       |
| Corn Snake                   | <i>Pantherophis guttatus</i>     |

The husbandry, health, nutritional, and welfare needs of many reptiles have not been comprehensively studied in the wild, so data is deficient for many species. Additionally, ever accumulating scientific evidence suggests that keeping reptiles can be highly problematic for their physical and psychological health and welfare, particularly in clinical, highly artificial environments. Small simplistic captive environments, for all intents and purposes, ubiquitous in reptile keeping and breeding. Reptiles also pose human health (zoonotic) risks to vulnerable persons, including children younger than 5 years old, elderly people over 65 years of age, pregnant women, and anyone who is immunocompromised, due to potentially pathogenic organisms (such as Salmonella) being a part of their natural internal flora and fauna.

The commonly traded reptile species listed below are not excessively large, their biological, behavioral, husbandry, and welfare needs are better understood than many other reptiles, and informed keeper who do not promulgate folklore reptile husbandry practices, they can potentially be kept in a way that satisfies their basic biological and behavioral needs.

Curly tailed lizards are a group of lizards existing of 29 individual species. Only species not recorded by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as vulnerable, threatened, or endangered or listed by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) can be kept.

# Allowable animals

| Birds  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Estrildidae                                  |                                       |
| Cut-throat Finch                             | <i>Amadina fasciata</i>               |
| Strawberry Finch (Red Avadavat or Red Munia) | <i>Amandava amandava</i>              |
| Red-headed Parrot Finch                      | <i>Erythrura cyanovirens</i>          |
| Gouldian Finch/Lady Gould's                  | <i>Eythrura gouldiae</i>              |
| Blue-headed (Blue-faced) Parrot Finch        | <i>Erythrura tichroa</i>              |
| Crimson-rumped Waxbill                       | <i>Estrilda rhodopyga</i>             |
| Bronze Mannikin or Hooded Weaver             | <i>Lonchura cucullata</i>             |
| White-headed Munia                           | <i>Lonchura maja</i>                  |
| Chestnut Mannikin/Tricolored Munia           | <i>Lonchura malacca</i>               |
| Nutmeg Mannikin or Scaly-breasted Mannikin   | <i>Lonchura punctulata</i>            |
| Society Finch                                | <i>Lonchura striata domestica</i>     |
| Star Finch                                   | <i>Neochmia ruficauda</i>             |
| Long-tailed Grassfinch                       | <i>Poephila acuticauda acuticauda</i> |
| Heck's Grassfinch                            | <i>Poephila acuticauda hecki</i>      |
| Masked Grassfinch                            | <i>Poephila personata</i>             |
| Mela Finch/Green-winged Pytilia              | <i>Pytilia melba</i>                  |
| Diamond Firetail                             | <i>Stagonopleura guttata</i>          |
| Read-eared Firetail Finch                    | <i>Stagonopleura oculata</i>          |
| Double-barred/Owl Finch                      | <i>Taeniopygia bichenovii</i>         |



# Allowable animals

| Birds                                    |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Estrildidae (cont'd)                     |                                   |
| Zebra Finch                              | <i>Taeniopygia guttata</i>        |
| Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu                  | <i>Uraeginthus bengalus</i>       |
| Blue-capped Cordon-bleu                  | <i>Uraeginthus cyanocephalus</i>  |
| Purple Grenadier                         | <i>Uraeginthus ianthinogaster</i> |
| European Goldfinch                       | <i>Carduelis carduelis</i>        |
| Fancy Canary                             | <i>Serinus canaria</i>            |
| Psittacidae                              |                                   |
| Cockatiel                                | <i>Nymphicus hollandicus</i>      |
| Budgerigar (Budgie)                      | <i>Melopsittacus undulatus</i>    |
| Passeriformes                            |                                   |
| Plum-headed (Cherry/Crimson) Finch       | <i>Aidemosyne modesta</i>         |
| Sudan Golden Sparrow/Golden Song Sparrow | <i>Passer luteus</i>              |
| Red-whiskered Bulbul                     | <i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>         |
| Village Indigobird/Steelblue Windowfinch | <i>Vidua chalybeata</i>           |
| Columbidae                               |                                   |
| Diamond Dove                             | <i>Geopelia cuneate</i>           |
| Ring-necked Dove                         | <i>Streptopelia capicola</i>      |
| Ringed Turtle Dove/Ringneck Dove         | <i>Streptopelia risoria</i>       |

# Allowable animals

| Fish  |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| <p>Commonly traded, ornamental fishes are allowed expect for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wild caught saltwater fish</li><li>• Wild caught freshwater fish</li><li>• Fish species that are known to be wide-ranging and/or migratory and that require very large species in captivity</li><li>• Large fish that reach an adult length of 14 inches or more, whether or not a specific fish has reached the length.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Exemptions- Goldfish and Koi</li></ul></li><li>• Venomous fish or other fish that pose a medically significant risk to human health or safety</li></ul> |                            |
| Amphibians  |                            |
| <p>Due to the risk of native amphibian populations being exposed to <i>Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis</i> and <i>Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans</i>, no amphibian species should be included in the allowable animals list. These lethal fungal pathogens can be introduced into local environments through escaped or released pet amphibians infected with either disease or through the disposal of contaminated water or other materials the may have contacted.</p>   |                            |
| Invertebrates   |                            |
| Feeder crickets, mealworms, other worms, flies  | <i>Insecta various sp.</i> |

Scientific research regarding the husbandry and welfare needs of most invertebrates, both terrestrial and aquatic, is lacking. As well, significant conservation concerns are associated with a number of invertebrates, such as certain tarantula species, that are extracted from the wild for pet trade.

| Not Allowed   |
|---|
| All animals prohibited by Provincial, Federal, or international regulation, rule, or agreement. |

# Lethal trapping and poisoning of wild animals





# Lethal trapping and poisoning of wild animals

## Issues:

- Leg, body hold, and snare traps can:
  - Kill and injure non target animals and people
  - Result in a slow and painful death
- Poison can:
  - Affect other animals along the food chain
  - Result in a slow and painful death

## Draft ideas:

1. Prohibit the outdoor use of lethal traps
2. Prohibit the outdoor use of Rodenticide poison bait stations
3. Prohibit glue traps
4. Authorize Animal Services to require wildlife proofing where ongoing wildlife or feral cat conflicts exist to reduce repetitive trapping
5. Require signage for lethal trapping
6. Require trapping to be conducted by licensed pest control companies or governmental agencies

## Exemptions:

- Exemption for proven sick, injured, or aggressive animals
- Exemption for insects
- Exemption for governmental agencies

## Additional Information:

- Proactive wildlife proofing a home or property typically prevents the need for trapping or poisoning





# Feeding wildlife

## Issues:

- Feeding wildlife can lead to increased populations of urban wildlife and human/wildlife conflict
- In 2020, 1359 wild animals were found deceased on city streets and boulevards and included deer, rabbits, squirrels, fox, and others

## Draft idea:

1. Prohibit feeding of wildlife

## Exemption:

- Bird feeders



# Compliance with the By-law updates

## Education

- Education and outreach

## Enforcement

- An Animal Services Officer can issue a verbal warning or fine
- A list of existing fines are available in Schedule B of the current By-law
- The By-law update will require the creation of some new fines, which will align with the existing fines.

