

**THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF CENTRE HASTINGS
BY-LAW NUMBER 2025-70**

**BEING a by-law to adopt the Municipality of Centre Hastings Animal Control
Policy (ENF001, 2025)**

WHEREAS Section 8 and Section 10 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001, c.25, as amended, authorize municipalities to pass by-laws respecting the health, safety and well-being of persons and the protection of persons and property, including animals;

AND WHEREAS Section 103 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* authorizes municipalities to impound animals running at large in contravention of a by-law;

AND WHEREAS Section 391 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* authorizes a municipality to impose fees or charges for services provided;

AND WHEREAS Council deems it desirable and in the public interest to modernize the Municipality's Animal Control Policy to reflect current legislation, operational practices, and Council direction, including compliance with the *Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act, 2019* (PAWS Act), and the August 2025 amendments respecting backyard hens;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of The Corporation of the Municipality of Centre Hastings enacts as follows:

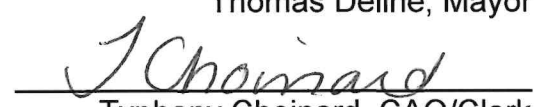
1. That the document titled "ENF-001 Animal Control Policy (2025)", attached hereto as *Schedule "A"*, and forming part of this By-law, is hereby adopted as the Municipality's Animal Control Policy.
2. That this policy repeals and replaces all previous Animal Control by-laws and policies, including:
 - By-law 2022-04
 - By-law 2001-15
 - By-law 2001-16
 - By-law 2007-38
3. That the purpose of this policy is to ensure the humane treatment, regulation, and control of animals within the Municipality, and to consolidate provisions related to animal welfare, licensing, impoundment, nuisance control, and enforcement into a single, modern framework.
4. That this By-law shall come into force and take effect on the date of its passing.

READ A FIRST AND SECOND TIME this 5th day of November 2025.

READ A THIRD TIME AND FINALLY PASSED this 5th day of November 2025.



Thomas Deline, Mayor



Typhany Choinard, CAO/Clerk

“Schedule A” – ENF-001 Animal Control Policy (2025)

Municipality of Centre Hastings

ENF-001 Animal Control Policy

Category: Enforcement

Date: November 5th 2025

Repeals: By-Law 2022-04, By-Laws 2001-15, 2001-16, 2007-38

Amendment: Resolution RC/08/27-5-2025 – Backyard Hen Update

Purpose

1. Section 10 (2) 9 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* S.O. 2001 c.25 authorizes the councils of municipalities to pass by-laws respecting animals.
2. Section 103 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* authorizes municipalities to impound animals which are at large in contravention of any such by-law.
3. Section 391 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* authorizes municipalities to impose fees or charges for services rendered.
4. Council considers it advisable to regulate animals to ensure that animals are kept and treated in a humane manner and that the owners of animals provide good quality care to them.

Accordingly, the Council of The Corporation of the Municipality of Centre Hastings enacts By-Law 2022-04 to adopt Animal Control Policy ENF-001.

Definitions

For the purposes of this Policy

“Administrative Fees” means any fees specified as set out in the current User Fees By-Law.

“Aggressive animal” means an animal which, in the opinion of the Animal Control Officer, the Municipal By-Law Enforcement Officer or their delegate, has demonstrated excessive and/or unprovoked aggression, or is of a threatening disposition.

“Aggressive, dangerous or vicious” means behaviour exhibited that, without mitigating factors, the animal has:

- attacked, bitten, or caused injury to a person, or
- demonstrated a propensity to do so, or
- attacked, bitten, or caused injury to a domestic animal, or
- been placed on an Order to Restrain and is kept or permitted to be kept by its owner in violation of the requirements of such order.

“Altered” means spayed or neutered.

“Animal” means any member of the animal kingdom or living beings, including mammals, birds and reptiles but excluding fish.

“Animal Control Officer” means the individual(s) appointed by Council for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of this policy.

“Animal Enclosure” means an enclosed place for the keeping of animals and includes bird lofts, bird cages, pigeon coops, dog runs, dog pens, doghouses, rabbit hutches, catteries, and reptile tanks. Pastureland or fenced agricultural land used for livestock or

property where fencing has been erected on or along the property lines for the purposes of enclosing shall not be deemed to be an animal enclosure.

“At large” means an animal that is in a place other than the property owned or occupied by the owner, where that animal is not being kept on a leash by its owner or by another person acting on the owner’s behalf, where permission has not been granted by that owner; excludes domestic cats.

“Attractant” means any substance which could be reasonably expected to attract a wild animal or animals or does attract wild animals, strays, feral or abandoned animals.

“Backyard Hen” means a domesticated biological female chicken that is a minimum of four (4) months old and is not located on a farm. *(2025 Amendment)*

“Breeding” means the production of offspring.

“Built-up Area” means the area contiguous to the road where there are fronting on one side of the road, three or more dwellings, schools, or churches within a distance of 152.4 m (500 feet) measured along the limit of the road.

“Business day” means any Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday other than a public holiday.

“Clerk” means the person appointed by Council to carry out the duties of the Clerk described in section 228 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.

“Companion animal” means an animal specifically trained and used as a companion animal for persons with special needs and shall not include livestock.

“Confining” means to prevent the animal from leaving the owner’s property and coming into contact with other persons or animals who have not consented to contact; when used in connection with a dog that is the subject of an Order to Restrain at the owner’s property, means that the dog must be restrained by means of an enclosure, fence, leash or tether in order to prevent the animal from leaving the owner’s property.

“Control” includes care and custody.

“Council” means the Council of the Municipality of Centre Hastings.

“Daily care fee” means the ordinary cost for housing and feeding an animal per day.

“Dog” means a domesticated canine animal of the species *Canis familiaris*, male or female.

“Domestic Animal” means an animal that is permitted in Canada, is not wild, and is normally kept as a household pet or is domesticated for humane use or agricultural purposes.

“Dwelling” or “Dwelling unit” means a room or suite of two or more rooms designed or intended for residential use by a person or persons in which culinary and sanitary conveniences are provided for the exclusive use of such person or persons and having a private entrance from outside or from a common hallway or stairway inside, and which is in a residentially zoned part of the Municipality.

“Enclosed property” means a pen or other enclosure that prevents the animal from leaving the property and prevents contact with people and other animals.

“Exotic Animal” means any animal listed in Schedule A to this policy.

“Extreme weather” means a cold warning, heat warning or other weather warning alert issued by Environment Canada for weather in the municipality including but not limited to extreme cold or hot weather, snowstorms, freezing rain, heavy rainfall, hurricanes, tornadoes and/or strong winds.

“Feed or feeding” means the deliberate act of furnishing or making food or other substances available which is likely to be consumed by wild animals, strays, feral or abandoned animals.

“Hen Coop” means a fully enclosed weatherproof and tamper-proof building where Backyard Hen(s) are kept and which interior includes nest boxes for egg-laying, perches, and food and water containers. *(2025 Amendment)*

“Hen Enclosure” means the sum of the hen run and hen coop. *(2025 Amendment)*

“Hen Run” means a secure enclosure that allows Backyard Hen(s) access to the outdoors. *(2025 Amendment)*

“Household pet” means a domestic animal that is kept for companionship.

“Humane Society of Quinte” means the local animal shelter and affiliate of the OSPCA Provincial Animal Welfare Services (PAWS) from which animals may be redeemed or lawfully adopted.

“Impound” means the animal is taken into custody and transported to a pound and held as per this policy.

“Keep” means to have temporary or permanent control or possession of an animal, and the words “kept” or “keeping” have a similar meaning.

“Kennel” means a facility licensed by the municipality dealing with the business of breeding, buying, selling, boarding or training of dogs.

“Leash” means a strap, cord or chain which is designed to restrain the breed of animal it is controlling, and it may not exceed 1.8 metres (6 ft.) long.

“Leash-free park” means a park identified by Council as an enclosure where dogs are permitted to run free.

“Licence” means a licence issued pursuant to this policy.

“Licensing Officer” means a person appointed by Council under section 15 of the *Police Services Act* to enforce the by-laws and policies of the Municipality.

“Livestock” means domestic farm animals (i.e. horse, donkey, pony, mule, jackass, bovine, bull or heifer, goat, swine, deer, elk, mink, fox, sheep, chinchilla) and fowl that are kept for agricultural purposes; as designated as livestock under the *Livestock and Livestock Products Act* O. Regulation 318/99, the *Livestock Community Sales Act*; and such additional class or classes of animals as are prescribed in the regulations made under the *Livestock Identification Act*.

“Livestock Guardian Dog” means a dog that works and/or lives with domestic farm animals (i.e., cattle, sheep, goats) to protect them while aggressively repelling predators and is used exclusively for that purpose.

“Microchip” means an approved “Canadian Standard” encoded identification device implanted into an animal, which contains a unique code that permits or facilitates access to owner information, including the name and address of the owner, which is stored in a central database.

“Municipal Law Enforcement Officer” means a person appointed by Council under section 15 of the *Police Services Act* to enforce the by-laws and policies of the Municipality and includes the Animal Control Officer and the By-law Enforcement Officer.

“Municipal property” means all property owned, leased, or under the control of the municipality, and without limitation, this term shall include all parks, open space, opened or unopened road allowances, sidewalks, footpaths, or bicycle trails.

“Municipality” means the Corporation of the Municipality of Centre Hastings.

“Muzzle” means a humane fastening or covering device of adequate strength placed over the mouth of an animal to prevent it from biting, and the words “muzzled” and “muzzling” have similar meanings.

“Muzzled dog” means a dog wearing a muzzle in the manner anticipated by the manufacturer of the muzzle.

“Occupied” means being in possession of a property or part of a property, for example, as a result of a tenancy agreement or as an invited guest.

“Order to Restrain” means the order issued by a Municipal Officer or Police Officer in accordance with the provisions of this policy.

“OSPCA Provincial Animal Welfare Services (PAWS)” means the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

“Owner” includes any person who possesses, keeps, or harbours an animal and, where an owner is a minor, includes the person who is responsible for the care, control, or custody of the minor; and the word “owns” has a similar meaning.

“Park” means a public area controlled by the municipality and set aside for use by the public for rest, recreation, exercise, pleasure, amusement, and enjoyment, and includes playgrounds, sports fields, wading and swimming areas, public pathways, and trails.

“Person” means an individual, partnership, association, firm, or corporation.

“Pet store” means a business that sells live animals as household pets.

“Police Service Dog” means a dog trained for and engaged in law enforcement by any federal, provincial, or municipal government agency.

“Pound” means a contract-authorized facility in which animals impounded under the authority of this policy are kept.

“Premises” includes a dwelling unit, a house or building, and the land or premises on which the building or house is situated or attached.

“Property” means a parcel of land including any buildings or other structures on the land.

“Protective care” means the temporary keeping of an animal as a result of an eviction, incarceration, medical or fire emergency, or any other situation as approved by the Animal Control Officer, for the health and safety of the animal.

“Restrained” means under control and, where used in connection with a dog which is the subject of an Order to Restrain, means the said dog will be controlled by one or more of being muzzled, leashed with a leash no longer than 1.8 metres (6 feet) in length and under the care and control of a person who is at least sixteen (16) years of age with sufficient strength to control the dog.

“Rooster” means a domesticated biological male chicken and is prohibited under this policy except as part of a lawful agricultural operation. *(2025 Amendment)*

“Sanitary Condition” means a condition that does not result in an accumulation of fecal matter, odour, insect infestation, or rodent attractants which could endanger the health of any person or animal. The definition shall not be interpreted in such a way as to restrict livestock or farm practices regulated by other legislation.

“Sanitize” means to clean for the purpose of controlling disease-producing organisms, and “sanitized” has a corresponding meaning.

“Shelter” means a recognized facility that provides fostering or treatment programs for dogs that have been abandoned, abused, or injured.

“Service Animal” means a guide dog or other trained service animal identifiable by proper identification and used principally to assist persons with a disability or impairment; includes a Police Service Dog.

“Tag” means a conventional tag or any other device that sets out the identification number of every dog that is registered within the municipality.

“Tether” means a rope, chain or similar device which is used to tie or secure an animal to a post, wall, or other such structure, so that the animal will stay in a particular area on a property.

“Veterinary hospital or clinic” means premises for the medical treatment of dogs under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

“Without provocation” means in the absence of teasing, tormenting, abusing or assaulting actions upon the dog or its owner, either in the past or in the present, by the person or domestic animal which has been bitten by the dog.

“Wild Animal” means all mammals, birds, and reptiles, other than domestic animals, including feral cats and wild dogs.

Section 1.00 – Interpretation

1.01 Regulation:

- (1) Except as otherwise provided, the regulations established by this policy apply to all animals and to their owners within the boundaries of the municipality.
- (2) The schedules attached to this policy form part of the policy and are enforceable as such.
- (3) The words “include” and “including” are not to be read as limiting the meaning of a word or term to the phrases or descriptions that follow.
- (4) Except as otherwise provided, the fees established by this policy shall be in accordance with the fees established within the current User Fees By-Law of the municipality and apply to all animals and their owners.

1.02 Statutes: References to laws in this policy are meant to refer to the statutes, as amended from time to time, that are applicable within the Province of Ontario.

1.03 Severability: If a court or tribunal of competent jurisdiction declares any portion of this policy to be illegal or unenforceable, that portion of this policy shall be considered to be severed from the balance of the policy, which shall continue to operate in full force and effect.

Section 2.00 – Licensing and Registration of Dogs

2.01 Registration: Every owner of a dog that has reached the age of 28 weeks shall make application to register the dog with the municipality for an annual dog tag.

2.02 Registration Procedure: A dog shall be registered at any municipal service centre, or in any other manner adopted by the municipality by providing the necessary information and paying the prescribed fee. It is an offence for an owner of a dog to provide false information about the dog being registered.

2.03 Issuance of Tag: Upon registration with the Municipality's DocuPet Licensing Program, a dog will be included in the dog identification system by means of the issuance of a tag.

2.04 Wearing of Tag: Every tag that is issued shall be kept securely fixed on the dog at all times when the dog is in a place other than the dwelling of its owner.

2.05 Replacement of Tag: An owner of a dog or another person acting on the owner's behalf may obtain a replacement for a tag that has been lost or destroyed by paying the prescribed fee as outlined in the User Fees By-Law.

2.06 Exemptions: The requirement for annual registration set out in section 2.01 does not apply to dogs in:

- a pound or shelter;
- a veterinary hospital or clinic;
- a kennel which holds a valid licence from the municipality;
- a pet store; or
- police service.

2.07 Livestock Guardian Dog Exemption: The owner of a licensed Livestock Guardian Dog may remove the tag from a Livestock Guardian Dog's collar while the dog is being actively used for Livestock protection to repel predators, provided that the owner provides for alternative means of identification.

Section 3.00 – Kennel Licences

3.01 Requirements

(1) No kennel licences will be issued for property located in the Urban Centre or in the Hamlets of Fuller, Roslin, Moira, Ivanhoe, or Crookston.

(2) No person shall operate a kennel without first obtaining a kennel licence and paying to the Municipality, prior to the 31st day of March in each calendar year, the kennel fees as set out in the current User Fees By-Law. Upon the payment of the kennel fee, the owner is not liable to pay a further fee in respect of such dogs.

(3) No person shall establish a new kennel except in accordance with the uses established by the applicable Zoning By-Law and unless it is separated from a residential use, other than that of the owner of the kennel, by a distance not less than forty-five (45) metres (150 feet). **Kennels shall not be permitted on vacant land.**

(4) Applications for permission to establish a dog kennel shall be filed, by the assessed owner of the property, with the Clerk of the Municipality, signed by the owner and shall include particulars as to the location, type of enclosure, breed and the maximum number of dogs to be kept in the enclosure.

(5) The location distances which are included on the application for permission to establish a dog kennel shall be verified by the Municipal By-Law Enforcement Officer.

(6) Abutting property owners within 213.4 metres (700 feet) of the lot on which the proposed kennel is to be located shall be notified of the application for their input.

(7) An application under this policy shall be considered by Council at an open public meeting and any other person may be heard either in support of or in opposition to the proposed kennel. Council shall, by resolution, determine whether to grant or deny the application, and such decision shall be conveyed in writing to the applicant by the Clerk.

(8) No kennel shall be located within 304.8 metres (1,000 feet) of a built-up area.

(9) The owner or operator of a kennel shall provide adequate care and control of each dog and shall submit to an annual inspection by the Animal Control Officer. This Officer

may request an inspection report by a Veterinarian, the District Health Inspector and/or an Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (O.S.P.C.A.) agent and may revoke the kennel licence if the premises do not conform to the standards set out in this policy or upon recommendation by the above Inspector(s).

Section 4.00 – Order to Restrain and Appeals – Dogs

4.01 Order to Restrain:

Where a dog exhibits aggressive, dangerous, or vicious behaviour towards a person or domestic animal, a Municipal Law Enforcement Officer may issue an “Order to Restrain” to the owner or person responsible for the dog.

4.02 Contents of Order:

Any Order to Restrain may include, but is not limited to:

- (1) confining the dog to the owner’s property;
- (2) restraining the dog with a leash;
- (3) restraining the dog with a muzzle;
- (4) the posting of warning signs.

4.03 Underage Handlers:

An owner or person responsible for a dog that is the subject of an Order to Restrain shall ensure that the dog is under the control of a person at least sixteen (16) years of age when the dog is not on the owner’s premises.

4.04 Transfer of Ownership:

An owner or person responsible for a dog that is the subject of an Order to Restrain shall notify the Municipal By-Law Enforcement Officer within five (5) days of transfer if the dog is relocated or if ownership is transferred to another person.

4.05 Compliance:

Every owner or person responsible for the dog shall at all times comply with an Order to Restrain.

4.06 Appeal of Order to Restrain:

- (1) If the owner or person responsible for the dog disagrees with the Order to Restrain, he or she may appeal to the Municipal By-Law Officer within seven (7) days of receipt of said order by filing a *Notice to Appeal*.
- (2) Upon receipt of an appeal, the Municipal By-Law Officer shall prepare a report for the consideration of the CAO/Clerk. The applicant and any other interested party shall be provided with a copy of the decision.
- (3) The Order to Restrain shall remain in full force and effect between the date of the Order and the date of the decision of the CAO/Clerk, and the owner or person responsible shall comply with all the requirements outlined in the Order.
- (4) At such time as the CAO/Clerk makes the decision to confirm, modify or quash the Order to Restrain, the decision shall be final and binding, and the owner of the dog shall comply therewith.
- (5) Within seven (7) days of the decision, the CAO/Clerk shall provide a written decision letter to the applicant.
- (6) An Order to Restrain expires only upon proof that the dog is deceased, or when the Animal Control Officer or By-Law Officer is satisfied that it no longer resides in the Municipality.

Section 5.00 – Feeding of Wild Animals

5.01 Feeding of Wild Animals:

No person shall intentionally feed wild animals or leave food or attractants of any type, in any form and in such a manner as to attract or be accessible to wild animals, feral, or stray domestic animals.

5.02 Exemptions: Section 5.01 does not apply in the following situations:

- (1) The leaving of food as bait for hunting or trapping by a property owner or person authorized under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997 S.O. 1997, c. 41 or other applicable regulation.
- (2) The leaving of food as bait by a licensed trapper, employee of a licensed wildlife or pest control agency, Municipal Law Enforcement Officer, OSPCA Provincial Animal Welfare Services (PAWS) Inspector, or Police Officer in the performance of their work.
- (3) The leaving of food for a colony of stray or feral cats.
- (4) The feeding of birds on a property, provided the owner or occupier places seed in a bird-feeding device that is sufficiently above grade and maintained in a sanitary condition.

Section 6.00 – Keeping of Animals – General Provisions

6.01 Animal Welfare

Every owner of an animal shall treat the animal in a humane manner, as provided in the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act, 2019 (PAWS Act), Ontario Regulation 60/09, Standards of Care and Administrative Standards.

6.02 Tethering

No person shall tether an animal using a choke chain or a prong-type collar.

6.03 Tethering Device

Notwithstanding Section 6.02 of this Policy and normal farming practices, a tether restraining device used to tether an animal must:

1. Be at least three (3) metres (9.84 feet) long;
2. Be attached to a permanently fixed object;
3. Allow the animal to move safely and unrestricted (except by the length of the tether);
4. Allow the animal to have access to adequate water and shelter; and
5. Be designed to prevent injury to the animal.

Nothing under this section requires the Municipality to assume responsibility concerning distress or care of an animal, which remains the obligation of the Ontario SPCA.

6.04 Prohibited Animals

No person shall keep, or cause to be kept, any animals listed in **Schedule “A.”**

6.05 Exemptions

It is permissible to keep any animal of the kind listed in Schedule “A” in the following places or circumstances:

1. In a veterinary hospital under the care of a licensed veterinarian;
2. In a zoo or wildlife sanctuary;
3. In a designated pound or shelter; or
4. At a farm operation involving alternative livestock animals where such use is permitted by the Municipality’s Zoning By-law and provided that the animals are kept in a secure, humane, and escape-proof cage, tank, or enclosure.

6.06 Backyard Hen Exemption (2025 Amendment)

(1) Notwithstanding Schedule “A” of this Policy, **backyard hens (chickens only)** may be kept on properties zoned **Rural (RU), Agricultural (A), Rural Residential (RR), or Hamlet (H)** in accordance with the Municipality’s Zoning By-law.

(2) A maximum of **six (6) hens** may be kept on any eligible lot having a **minimum area of one (1) acre**.

(3) **Roosters are prohibited**.

(4) Hens shall be kept for **personal use only**; the sale of eggs, breeding, slaughter, or other commercial activity is prohibited.

(5) Coops and outdoor enclosures shall:

- be located only in rear or interior side yards;
- maintain a minimum **setback of 5 metres (16 feet)** from all property lines and **15 metres (50 feet)** from any dwelling on an adjacent lot; and
- be maintained in a **clean and sanitary condition** so as not to cause odour, vermin, or other nuisance.

(6) The keeping of backyard hens shall be **subject to inspection and enforcement** by the Municipality’s By-law Enforcement Officer on a **complaint-driven basis**.

(7) All other species of poultry or fowl, and all roosters, remain prohibited except as permitted by the Municipality’s Zoning By-law or as part of an agricultural operation.

6.07 Number of Animals

No person shall keep, or cause to be kept, more than **three (3) dogs** or a total of **six (6)** individual animals, except:

1. A licensed pet shop;
2. A Police Canine Unit;
3. A kennel licensed by the Corporation;
4. A security firm licensed and authorized by the Province of Ontario to provide guard-dog services; or
5. Where animals are kept on lands zoned and used for agricultural, agricultural-support, or agriculturally related purposes.

6.08 Livestock and Agricultural Animals

No person shall keep livestock or agricultural animals such as, but not limited to, horses, donkeys, ponies, mules, jackasses, bovines, bulls, heifers, goats, swine, mink, foxes, sheep, chickens, or peafowl on any premises or property that is zoned and primarily used for **residential** purposes, as defined in the applicable Zoning By-law.

6.09 Clean-Up of Excrement

1. **Requirement to Clean Up:** Every owner or person who has control of an animal shall immediately remove any excrement left by the animal on any property other than property owned or occupied by the owner.
2. **Mode of Clean Up:** When an animal is on public or private property other than that of its owner, the owner shall have in their possession a suitable means of facilitating the removal of the animal’s feces.
- 3.

6.10 Animals at Large

1. No owner shall cause or permit their animal to be at large. This section shall not apply to domestic cats.
2. **Exemption:** An animal shall not be deemed to be at large if, without being kept on a leash or lead, it is:
 - (a) On a property other than that of its owner with the express permission of the owner or occupant of that property; or
 - (b) Participating in normal farm practices involving livestock movement (e.g., a cattle drive) between properties, provided the activity is supervised and monitored; or
 - (c) Located within a designated **leash-free park** in compliance with posted rules.

6.11 Noise and Nuisance

- (1) No owner shall permit an animal to make persistent noise, including but not limited to barking, howling, crying, or other sounds, which disturbs or is likely to disturb the quiet, peace, rest, enjoyment, comfort, or convenience of persons in the vicinity.
- (2) No owner shall permit the accumulation of feces, odour, or other unsanitary conditions on their property that may cause a nuisance or attract rodents, insects, or other pests.
- (3) For the purposes of this section, “persistent” means continuous or intermittent noise lasting more than fifteen (15) minutes in any one-hour period.

6.12 Abandonment and Neglect

- (1) No person shall abandon an animal within the Municipality or permit an animal to be without adequate food, water, shelter, or veterinary care.
- (2) Every owner shall ensure that an animal under their care or control receives adequate attention and is not left unattended for an unreasonable period that may result in distress.
- (3) This section is enforced in conjunction with the *Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act, 2019 (PAWS Act)* and does not limit the authority of a PAWS Inspector.

6.13 Nuisance Wildlife and Municipal Responsibility

- (1) The Municipality shall not be responsible for the removal or relocation of nuisance wildlife.
- (2) Residents encountering nuisance wildlife shall be encouraged to contact licensed wildlife or pest control agencies.
- (3) Municipal staff may provide public information resources on co-existing with wildlife and on preventing wildlife attractants.

Section 7.00 – Animal Enclosures

7.01 Requirements:

Every owner of an animal shall ensure that the animal enclosure provided for the animal meets the following requirements, regardless of whether the animal enclosure is located indoors or outdoors:

1. The animal enclosure shall be of a size and in a condition such that the animal may:
 - a) extend its legs, wings, and body to their full natural extent;
 - b) stand, turn around, and lie down;
 - c) sit; and
 - d) perch.
2. Every reptile and amphibian shall be provided with an enclosed space adequate for the needs of the species.

3. The enclosure shall be of such a nature and condition that the animal contained therein would not be harmed and its health would not be negatively affected by being placed in such an animal enclosure.
4. Every animal contained therein may be readily observed unless the natural habits of the animal require otherwise.
5. The animal enclosure shall be sufficiently lit, ventilated, and kept in a clean and sanitary condition.
6. The animal enclosure shall be kept free of offensive odour.
7. The animal enclosure (except for doghouses) shall be escape-proof.

7.02 Agricultural Purpose:

Section 8.01 shall not be interpreted to regulate a livestock animal enclosure on lands zoned and used for agricultural purposes.

7.03 Enclosure Requirement:

No person shall keep, or cause to be kept, a reptile, insect or amphibian permitted under this policy outside a building or structure unless it is in an animal enclosure.

Section 8.00 – Seizure and Impoundment

8.01 Impoundment:

Any domestic animal found at large in contravention of this policy may be impounded by a Municipal Law Enforcement Officer or Police Officer and taken to a pound or facility. This section shall not be used to impound livestock found to be at large.

8.02 Injured or Vicious Animals:

Despite Section 9.01, any animal found at large in contravention of this policy that is gravely injured or exhibiting characteristics of viciousness to such an extent that a Municipal Law Enforcement Officer or Police Officer attending the animal fears for his or her own health or safety, or that of others in the vicinity, may be destroyed immediately at the officer's sole discretion.

8.03 Recovery of Impounded Animals:

The owner of an impounded animal or another person acting with the authorization of the owner may recover the animal from the Animal Control Officer within 24 hours, failing which the animal will be transported and released to the Quinte Humane Society. To do so, the owner shall be required to pay the current fee for each day or portion of a day that the animal has been in the pound, and all costs incurred by the Municipality in impounding the animal, including the full amount of any emergency veterinary care required and the administrative fee as set out in the User Fees By-Law.

8.04 Recovery of Unregistered Dogs:

If the animal is a dog and it has reached the age of 28 weeks, the owner shall, in addition to paying the costs set out in Section 9.03, be required to register the dog in the manner set out in Section 2.

Section 9.00 – Surrendering of Animals

9.01 Surrender Ownership:

An owner of an animal may give up ownership of the animal by surrendering the animal to Municipal Law Enforcement, a member of a Police Service, or the Municipality's approved pound.

9.02 Ownership and Possession:

By surrendering the animal, the owner is deemed to have relinquished all rights of ownership and possession of the animal.

9.03 Fees:

To surrender the animal, the owner shall pay the appropriate fees as required under the applicable User Fees By-Law.

Section 10.00 – Quarantine of Animals**10.01 Quarantine Requirements and Fees:**

This section shall not apply to agricultural livestock.

10.02 Quarantine Process:

If, in the opinion and by the direction of a Hastings and Prince Edward Health Unit inspector, bites of persons by animals or contacts that may result in human rabies occur, the animal may be placed into quarantine by the Municipal Law Enforcement Division in addition to any other applicable regulation or direction. The owner of the animal shall:

1. quarantine the animal on the premises or property as per the direction of the Health Inspector; or
2. bring or ensure that the animal is brought to the Municipality's approved pound facility to be put in quarantine. If the owner is not able to transport the animal, it shall be transported by or on behalf of the Municipal Animal Control Officer; and
3. be responsible for all costs associated with the quarantine, including transportation, veterinary care, and any other daily care fees as provided in the applicable User Fees By-Law.

Section 11.00 – Municipal Liability**11.01 Damages or Compensation:**

The Corporation, its officers, employees, and agents shall not be liable for damages or compensation for any animal euthanized under the provisions of this policy, and no such damages or compensation shall be paid to any person.

Section 12.00 – Offence**12.01 Enforcement:**

This policy may be enforced by every Municipal Enforcement Officer and Police Officer.

12.02 Obstruction:

No person shall hinder or obstruct, or attempt to hinder or obstruct, any person exercising a power or performing a duty under this policy.

12.03 Offence and Penalty:

It is an offence for a person to contravene any provision of this policy. Every person who contravenes this policy is guilty of an offence and, on conviction, is liable to a fine in accordance with the *Provincial Offences Act, R.S.O.*, and to any other applicable penalty.

12.04 Multiple Offences:

The conviction of a person for the contravention of any provision of this policy shall not operate as a bar to prosecution against the same person for any subsequent or continued contravention.

12.05 Court Order:

If this policy is contravened and a conviction entered, the court in which the conviction has been entered and any court of competent jurisdiction thereafter may, in addition to any other remedy and to any penalty that is imposed, make an order prohibiting the continuation or repetition of the offence by the person convicted.

12.06 Fee Recovery through Property Tax Roll

(1) Where any fees, charges, or costs imposed under this policy, including impoundment or enforcement costs, remain unpaid for thirty (30) days or more, the Municipality may add such amounts, together with interest, to the property tax roll for the premises of the owner and collect them in the same manner as municipal taxes pursuant to section 398 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.

Section 13.00 – Complaints

13.01 Public Reporting and Complaint Process

(1) The Municipality shall maintain a publicly accessible online form through its official website to enable residents to submit service requests or complaints related to animal control, animal welfare, or nuisance conditions.

(2) All submissions shall be automatically directed to the Municipal By-Law for review and appropriate follow-up.

(3) Complaints received shall be investigated in accordance with Schedule “B” and any additional municipal complaint-handling procedures.

13.02 Protection of Personal Information

All personal information collected under this Policy, including through the online complaint form or in written or verbal submissions, shall be collected in accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (MFIPPA), R.S.O. 1990, c. M.56.

Such information will be used solely for the purpose of administering and enforcing the Municipality’s Animal Control Policy and may be shared only with authorized personnel or partner agencies (e.g., PAWS, Public Health, OPP) as required to respond to a complaint or incident.

Schedule “A” – Prohibited Animals

The following animals are prohibited from being kept within the Municipality of Centre Hastings, except as otherwise provided under Section 6.05 of this policy.

Proboscidea

All species purely or partially of the order *Proboscidea* (*elephants and related species*).

Rodentia

All species purely or partially of the order *Rodentia* (*porcupines, prairie dogs, nutria, etc.*)

Exception: Rodents which do not exceed 1,500 grams and are derived from self-sustaining captive populations.

Reptiles

Crocodylian

All species purely or partially of the order *Crocodylian* (*alligators, crocodiles, gavials, caimans, etc.*).

Squamata (Scaled Reptiles)

All *Squamata* purely or partially of the following species:

- The genus *Eunectes* [Anacondas]
- *Morelia amethystina* [Amethystine and Scrub Pythons]

- *Python molurus* [Indian Python, Indian Rock Python, Burmese Python]
- *Python sebae* [African Rock Python]
- *Python reticulatus* [Reticulated Python]
- *Varanus niloticus* [Nile Monitor]
- *Varanus salvadorii* [Crocodile Monitor]
- *Varanus salvator* [Water Monitor]
- *Varanus varius* [Lace Monitor]
- *Varanus giganteus* [Perentie – Monitor Lizard]
- *Varanus komodoensis* [Komodo Dragon]
- The family *Viperidae* [True Vipers, Fea's Viper, Night Adders, Rattlesnakes, etc.]
- The family *Elapidae* [Cobras, Mambas, Kraits, Coral Snakes, etc.]
- The subfamily *Hydrophiinae* [Sea Snakes, Coral Reef Snakes, etc.]
- The genus *Dispholidus* [Boomslang Snakes]
- The genus *Thelotornis* [Twig Snakes]
- The genus *Rhabdophis* [Keelbacks]
- The genus *Atractaspis* [Burrowing or Mole Vipers]
- *Philodryas viridissimus* [South American Green Racer]
- The family *Helodermatidae* [Gila Monster, Beaded Lizards]

Size Restrictions:

- Lizards which reach an adult length larger than 2 metres (measured from snout to tail).
- Snakes which reach an adult length larger than 3 metres (measured from snout to tail).

Birds

Anseriformes

All species purely or partially of the order *Anseriformes*
(ducks, geese, swans, screamers, etc.)

Exception: Where animals are kept as agricultural livestock.

Galliformes

All species purely or partially of the order *Galliformes*
(pheasants, grouse, guineafowl, turkeys, chickens, peafowl, etc.)

Exception: Where animals are kept as agricultural livestock.

See Section 6.06 for Backyard Hen exemption.

Except backyard hens (chickens only) kept in accordance with the Municipality's Zoning By-law on properties zoned Rural (RU), Agricultural (A), Rural Residential (RR), or Hamlet (H) and meeting all applicable standards for lot size, care, and cleanliness.

Struthioniformes

All species purely or partially of the order *Struthioniformes*

(*ostriches, rheas, cassowaries, emus, kiwis, eagles, hawks, falcons, owls, etc.*)

Exception: Agricultural livestock and birds kept for falconry.

Arachnida

Araneae (Spiders)

All *Araneae* purely or partially of the following species:

- The family *Ctenidae* [Wandering Spiders]
- The genus *Latrodectus* [Black Widow Spiders]
- The family *Sicariidae* [Brown Recluse, Assassin Spiders, etc.]
- The family *Hexathelidae* [Australian Funnel-Web Spiders]

Scorpions

All species purely or partially of the family *Buthidae*

(*Fat-Tailed Scorpions, Bark Scorpions, etc.*)

Poisonous or Venomous Animals

Including, but not limited to, any spiders, snakes, lizards, insects, or other species that possess venom or toxins capable of causing injury or illness to humans or animals.

Schedule “B” – Animal Control Officer Duties and Responsibilities

The Animal Control Officer works under the direction and guidance of the By-Law Enforcement Officer and is responsible for the following duties and functions:

1. Policy and Legislative Compliance:

To provide animal control services in accordance with the provisions of the *Municipal Act*, the *Provincial Offences Act*, and the *Municipality of Centre Hastings Animal Control Policy ENF-001*.

2. Staffing and Supervision:

To employ and supervise sufficient Animal Control Officers, who shall be designated as **Provincial Offences Officers**, to patrol the Municipality, and to provide such officers with adequate vehicles and formal identification.

3. Regular Service Hours:

To respond to calls between the hours of **7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.**, excluding **Sundays and statutory holidays**.

4. Emergency Services:

To provide emergency services only between the hours of **7:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.**, and during statutory holidays.

5. Complaint Investigation:

To investigate all complaints from the public relating to animal control, ensure proper action is taken, and maintain accurate records of all complaints and actions.

6. Reporting:

To submit **monthly reports to the CAO** regarding complaints received, actions taken, and any trends or recurring issues identified.

7. **Seizure and Impoundment:**

To seize and impound, for claiming by the owners, all dogs running at large within the Municipality.

8. **Pound Maintenance:**

To maintain, or have access to, a **dog pound** in accordance with the regulations provided by the **Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA)**.

9. **Redemption and Adoption Procedures:**

Every dog seized and impounded will be given for adoption to the **Quinte Humane Society** after the expiration of **twenty-four (24) hours** from the day following impoundment unless, prior to the expiration of the twenty-four (24) hours, the owner of the dog has reclaimed it and paid to the Animal Control Officer the fees incurred during the impoundment period.

The Animal Control Officer shall ensure completion of the required application and collection of the applicable fee for a current dog tag (per animal), as per the contract negotiated with the Municipality.

If the owner fails to comply, the Animal Control Officer shall issue a **Notice to Pay**.

10. **Municipal Compensation:**

For any dogs that are not reclaimed, the Municipality shall pay the Animal Control Officer the applicable impoundment fees, plus mileage, in accordance with the current agreement.

11. **Invoicing:**

Invoices for services rendered shall be submitted monthly to the Municipality for review and payment.

Schedule C – Enforcement and Compliance Protocol

1. Purpose

This protocol outlines how the Municipality of Centre Hastings' **By-law Enforcement Officer** responds to animal-related complaints under the *ENF-001 Animal Control Policy*.

The purpose is to ensure consistent, fair, and educational enforcement appropriate to the Municipality's small rural context.

2. Guiding Principles

Animal control enforcement in Centre Hastings is founded on the following principles:

1. **Complaint-Based Service**

All enforcement activity is initiated by a complaint or request for service submitted by a member of the public.

2. **Education Before Enforcement**

The Municipality prioritizes education and voluntary compliance over formal enforcement whenever possible.

3. **Proportional and Practical Response**

Responses are scaled to the seriousness of the issue, potential health and safety risks, and the property owner's willingness to cooperate.

4. **Transparency and Accountability**

All complaints and responses are documented using the Municipal complaint portal or internal tracking system.

3. Complaint Intake and Response

1. Receiving Complaints

- Complaints may be submitted through the Municipal website, by phone, email, or in person at the Municipal Office.
- Anonymous complaints will be reviewed but are typically investigated only if they relate to public health, safety, or animal welfare.

2. Initial Review

- The By-law Enforcement Officer (BLO) will review each complaint to confirm it falls within Municipal jurisdiction and determine the appropriate response.

3. Prioritization

Complaints are categorized as follows:

- **High Priority:** Animal attack, dangerous animal, livestock on roadway, or public safety risk.
- **Medium Priority:** Repeated animal-at-large issues, tethering or neglect complaints.
- **Low Priority:** One-time noise or nuisance concerns, or general inquiries.

4. Compliance Process

Step	Action	Typical Outcome
Step 1 – Education / Courtesy Visit	BLO contacts the animal owner to explain the concern and applicable policy sections.	Most issues are resolved voluntarily.
Step 2 – Written Warning / Compliance Notice	If the issue persists, a written notice is issued identifying corrective actions and timeframes.	Compliance achieved within the stated period (usually 7–10 days).
Step 3 – Escalation / Referral	For ongoing non-compliance or health/safety risks, the BLO may refer the matter to the CAO, local health authorities, or Provincial Animal Welfare Services (PAWS).	Case reviewed by external agencies or municipal management.
Step 4 – Cost Recovery	If the Municipality incurs costs (e.g., impoundment, veterinary care, cleanup), the costs may be invoiced to the property owner.	Unpaid amounts may be added to the property tax roll under s.398 of the <i>Municipal Act, 2001</i> .

5. Authority and Collaboration

The By-law Enforcement Officer acts under the authority of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, and this Policy.

The Municipality may collaborate with:

- **Provincial Animal Welfare Services (PAWS)** – animal cruelty or neglect cases
- **Hastings Prince Edward Public Health** – rabies, zoonotic disease
- **Ontario Provincial Police (OPP)** – safety incidents or dangerous animals
- **Local Pound / Humane Society** – animal impoundment, care, and adoption

6. Discretion and Relationship-Based Enforcement

The By-law Enforcement Officer has discretion to:

- Resolve matters through education, dialogue, or mediation.
- Use written compliance agreements rather than formal orders.
- Determine that no further action is required if the issue is resolved or unfounded.

This approach promotes responsible pet ownership and maintains positive relationships within the community.

7. Recordkeeping and Reporting

- All complaints and enforcement activities are logged in the Municipality's online complaint system.
- The By-law Enforcement Officer provides regular summary updates to the CAO outlining:
 - Number and type of complaints received
 - Resolutions achieved
 - Referrals to outside agencies

8. Review and Continuous Improvement

This protocol shall be reviewed **annually** along with the Animal Control Policy to ensure it remains current and responsive to community needs.