

The Corporation Of The Township Of Amaranth

By-law Number 2026-08

Being a by-law to provide for the regulation, restriction, keeping and licensing of dogs and kennels and the prohibition of cruelty to domestic animals in the Township of Amaranth

Whereas Subsection 11 (3) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001, c. 25, as amended, provides authority for lower tier municipalities to pass By-laws to regulate animals;

And Whereas Sections 103 and 105 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* provide authority in respect of the seizure and impounding of dogs found running at large and the muzzling of dogs in the Township;

And Whereas The Corporation of the Township of Amaranth (the "Township") deems it desirable to prohibit the running at large of dogs in the Township, to implement provisions for the proper installation and maintenance of kennels and to appoint an Animal Control Officer to carry out the enforcement thereof in order to promote reasonable and safe care of the dogs in the Township;

And Whereas Subsection 391 (1) of the *Municipal Act, 2001* authorizes a Township to impose fees or charges on persons for services or activities provided or done by or on behalf of it;

And Whereas Section 20 of the Animals for Research Act, RSO 1990, Chapter A.22, as amended, details the terms and conditions under which a municipal pound may impound a dog or require a dog to be destroyed.

And Whereas section 2 of the Protection of Livestock and Poultry from Dogs Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. L.24, as amended, allows any person to kill a dog that is found killing or injuring livestock or poultry.

And Whereas the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Amaranth is desirous of prohibiting cruelty to animals as well as maintaining control over dogs from running at large within the Township.

Now Therefore the Council of The Corporation of the Township of Amaranth hereby enacts as follows:

**1.0 Definitions for the purposes of this by-law:**

1.1 "Animal Control Officer" means a person or persons duly appointed by the Council of The Corporation of the Township of Amaranth to enforce the provisions of this by law and includes any police officer appointed pursuant to the *Police Services Act*.

1.2 "At Large" or "Trespass", in the context of dogs shall mean to be found in a place other than the premises of the owner of the dog and not under the control of the owner of the dog or other competent person authorized by the owner to have control. 'Run at Large or Running At Large' shall have the same meaning under this By-law.

1.3 "Dangerous Dog" means a dog that

a) has, in the absence of any mitigating factor, (exceptions may be made

if the dog was teased, abused, assaulted or if the dog was reacting to a person trespassing on the property owned by the dog's owner) attacked, bitten, or caused injury to a person or has demonstrated a propensity, tendency or disposition to do so; or

- b) has significantly injured a domestic or farm animal; or
- c) has shown the disposition or tendency to be threatening or aggressive to persons or animals; or
- d) has been previously designated as a potentially dangerous dog, is kept or permitted to be kept in violation of the requirements for such dog.

1.4 "Distress" means the state of being in need of proper care, water, food or shelter or being injured, sick or in pain or suffering or being abused or subject to undue or unnecessary hardship, privation or neglect.

1.5 "Dog" means any male or female domesticated dog, or any member of the species *Canis familiaris*.

1.6 "Dog tag" means a metal piece furnished by the Township of Amaranth that bears an identification number and is suitable to be securely fixed on an animal for the purpose of identification. Such tag is received upon registration of a dog and payment of the appropriate fee.

1.7 "Guide Dog" means a dog that is trained to aid persons with disabilities and is actively in use for such purposes;

1.8 "Kennel" shall mean any part of a lot, building, structure or establishment where more than ten (10) dogs are kept and which is licensed by the Township under the provisions of the Municipal Act;

a) Boarding Kennel shall mean for the purpose of this by-law be deemed a facility which provides shelter and care of dogs under contract;

b) Breeding Kennel means a place where a minimum of three (3) are housed, groomed, boarded, bred, trained, sold for breeding purposes and are registered with an association incorporated under the Animal Pedigree Act (Canada).

c) Personal Use Kennel shall mean any property in which more than three (3) dogs are kept for show purposes or predator control

1.9 "Kennel Licence" means a certificate issued by the Clerk or designate of the Township upon fulfilling the requirements of the by-law and by payment of the appropriate fee.

1.10 "Keep" means to have temporary or permanent control or possession of an animal.

1.11 "License" means a license that has been issued and paid for the current licensing year.

1.12 "Livestock Guardian Dog" means a purpose bred and trained dog that works and/or lives with domestic farm animals to protect them for predators while

aggressively repelling those predators, and is used exclusively for the purpose.

- 1.13 "Muzzle" means a fastening or covering device of adequate strength over the mouth to prevent a dog from biting.
- 1.14 "Township" means The Corporation of the Township of Amaranth or employee thereof.
- 1.15 "Owner" means any owner of a dog as identified on the dog license, including a person, partnership, association or corporation that owns, possesses or has control, care or custody over a dog and, where the owner is a minor, the person responsible for the custody of the minor.
- 1.16 "Peace Officer" means:
- a) a police officer, including a police officer within the meaning of the Police Services Act, a special constable, a First Nations Constable and an auxiliary member of a police force;
  - b) a municipal law enforcement officer;
  - c) an inspector or agent under the Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act; or
  - d) a public officer designated as a peace officer for the purposes of the Dog Owner's Liability Act.
- 1.17 "Person" means any human being, association, firm, partnership, private club, incorporated company, corporation, agent or trustee and the heirs, executors, or other legal representatives of a person to whom the context can apply according to law.
- 1.18 "Police Work Dog" means a dog trained to aid law enforcement officers and which dog is actually being used for police work.
- 1.19 "Pound" means the premises that are used for the detention, maintenance or disposal of dogs that have been impounded pursuant to this By-law or the Dog Owners Liability Act.
- 1.20 "Pound keeper" means the owner, operator or person(s) acting on behalf of the owner or operator of the facility identified by the Township as providing pound services for the Township.
- 1.21 "Protective Care" means the temporary, time-limited keeping of a domestic animal by the Municipality as a result of the eviction, incarceration, fire or medical emergency or any other situation that the pound keeper or Officer deems appropriate for the health and safety of the animal.
- 1.22 "Registration" means a dog
- a) Registered or eligible for registration in the register of the Canadian Kennel Club, Incorporated, or
  - b) Of a class designated as pure-bred in any regulations passed pursuant to provincial legislation.

1.23 "Hamlet Residential Zone" means the residential zones included in the Township of Amaranth Comprehensive Zoning By-law including, Waldemar.

## **2.0 Animal Control Officer**

2.1 Council shall, by By-law, appoint an Animal Control Officer whose duties it shall be to:

2.1.1 On occasion Issue dog tags upon registration in accordance with the provisions of this By-law.

2.1.2 On occasion collect Kennel Licence and registration fees in accordance with the Fees and Charges By-law.

2.1.3 Assist in the prosecution of any contravention of this By-law.

2.1.4 Assist with the upkeep of an accurate dog tag registry pursuant to this By-law and such records must show the dog owner's name and address and the serial number of the dog tag.

2.1.5 Report to Council and/or the Police Services Board, if requested on all matters relating to this By-law or at such shorter intervals as requested by Council.

2.1.6 Inspect kennels registered in the Township if and when required to ensure compliance with this By-law.

2.1.7 Administer and implement the provisions of this By-law.

2.2 Any duties contained in Sections 2.1 of this By-law may also be performed by the Clerk of the Township or any staff member acting under the Clerk's direction.

2.3 Council may, by By-law, appoint a person as a Relief By-law Enforcement/Small Animal Control Officer whose duty shall be to perform the duties of the Animal Control Officer during the absence of the Animal Control Officer. The Relief By-law Enforcement/Small Animal Control Officer shall have the same duties as are herein set forth for the Animal Control Officer.

## **3.0 Dog Tags, Licensing and Registration**

3.1 No person shall own, possess or harbor an unlicensed dog within the Township.

3.2 No owner shall keep or permit to be kept more than three (3) dogs at any one time, per dwelling unit, location or residence within the Township of Amaranth, (unless you are on an Agricultural zoned property) with exception of the following:

- a) a licensed kennel;
- b) an animal hospital/veterinary clinic;

- c) a pet store;
- d) a registered research facility or supply facility under the Animals for Research Act;
- e) a pound

3.3 The owner of a dog in the Township of Amaranth shall within one week after the dog comes into their possession cause the dog to be registered and licensed at the Municipal office for the Township of Amaranth for the balance of the calendar year.

3.4 Every person who is the owner of a dog greater than six (6) months old at any point in the year shall, on or before the 1st day of March in each and every year (or immediately after the dog reaches six (6) months of age where that takes place after March 1st) cause such dog to be registered and shall procure a tag therefor. Such registration shall expire on the 31st day of December each year in which the same was issued.

3.5 Every owner of a dog shall cause a dog tag to be securely affixed on the dog at all times (until the tag needs replaced). The tag shall be supplied by the Township upon the payment of the registration fee as set out in the Fees and Charges By-law.

3.6 A dog tag shall bear the serial number and no person shall remove the tag from a registered dog unless the dog is being lawfully used for hunting purposes.

3.7 Where the owner of a dog has been issued a current tag and license under this By-law, finds that the current tag has been lost, destroyed or mutilated, the owner may acquire, for the remainder of the license period, a replacement tag, upon producing proof of purchase of a valid license and upon payment of a fee as outlined in the Township's Fees and Charges By-law.

3.8 The dog license fees pursuant to this By-law shall be those set out in the Township of Amaranth Fees and Charges By-law.

3.9 Dog tags shall not be transferable and shall expire and become void upon the sale, death or other disposal of the dog. The tag shall be returned to the Township so that the dog may be deleted from the register.

3.10 The Township shall keep a record of all dogs registered and tagged showing the owners name and address, description of dog and tag number.

3.11 The Animal Control Officer in any given year as directed, may attend the entire Township or a section of the Township to bring the dog registry up to date.

3.12 Those dog owners listed on the register will be invoiced in January annually as per the fees prescribed by the Fees and Charges By-law.

#### **4.0 Kennels**

#### **4.1 Kennel Application**

- 4.1.1 Every person making an application to operate a Kennel shall pay an initial application fee to the Township as outlined in the Township's Fees and Charges By-law and complete the prescribed application form and provide such information as may be required to properly consider the application.
- 4.1.2 Once the initial application is approved, the operator must renew the license on an annual basis by completing the prescribed application/renewal form and pay the annual renewal fee.
- 4.1.3 Kennels must comply with the current Code of Practice for Canadian Kennel Operations.

#### **5.0 Pounds**

- 5.1 Council shall from time to time designate a place or places for the establishment, maintenance and operation of facilities for the impounding of domestic animals within the Township of Amaranth which shall be identified as the Pound or Pounds.
- 5.2 Council shall from time to time appoint by resolution or by-law, a Pound keeper to maintain and operate the Pound or Pounds established pursuant to this By-law.
- 5.3 Any Pound keeper in charge of the Municipal Pound will impound and detain all dogs delivered to him/her by the Animal Control Officer and shall furnish them with sufficient food, water, shelter.

#### **6.0 Impounding**

- 6.1 The Animal Control Officer or Police Officer may seize and impound any dog which is found by him/her or identified to him/her to be at large within the Township.
- 6.2 The Animal Control Officer or Pound keeper may, upon seizure and impoundment of the dog, inform the dog's owner, if known, that their dog has been seized and impounded.
- 6.3 Impounded dogs shall be kept in the Pound for a minimum period of seventy two (72) hours unless claimed by Owner.
- 6.4 Where a dog is seized or impounded it will not be released until pound and maintenance charges have been paid, plus any penalties that may be outstanding.
- 6.5 The Pound keeper, upon receiving a certificate or other written verification from a qualified veterinarian that an impounded dog is suffering from infectious or contagious disease, or is seriously injured causing undue pain and suffering, may immediately destroy that impounded dog.
- 6.6 The Pound keeper or Animal Control Officer may, upon receipt of a dog delivered to him/her by a Peace Officer deal with that dog in the same manner as other dogs seized and retained by him/her pursuant to this By-law.

6.7 The Pound keeper shall maintain a log book, in which he/she shall record the description of every dog impounded, the name of the person who impounded the dog, the time and location of the impoundment, the fees owing and the manner in which the impounded dog has been disposed of.

6.8 The impoundment fees and maintenance fees for dogs shall be those set out in agreement with the pound/pound keeper.

6.9 No person shall keep, harbor or have in their possession any dog suffering from any infectious or contagious disease, unless such dog is in isolation and under treatment for the cure of such disease.

## **7.0 Dogs Running at Large**

7.1 No owner of a dog shall allow or permit such dog to Run at Large in the Township of Amaranth. For the purpose of this By-law, a dog shall be deemed to be running at large when found in any place other than the premises of the owner, and not under the control of any person.

7.2 The Animal Control Officer may capture any dog Running at Large and cause it to be impounded or return same to its registered owner, in the sole discretion of the Animal Control Officer. Should the dog be returned to the Owner, a ticket may be issued to said Owner.

7.3 The Owner of every dog impounded, if known, and whether or not the dog is claimed by the Owner from the Pound, shall be liable for the payment of the Pound's fees as determined by the Pound keeper and shall pay all fees on demand to the Pound keeper.

7.4 A dog shall not be considered to be running at large if it is a Livestock Guardian Dog, Guide Dog, a Police Work Dog or a hunting dog accompanied by the harbourer or other responsible adult and is actively engaged or hunting or training for hunting, on unposted land, or on posted land with the permission of the owner thereof.

7.5 Any dog known or suspected to be rabid shall be destroyed by its Owner or by someone appointed by the Animal Control Officer to do so.

7.6 Where a dog captured under this section is injured or should be destroyed without delay for humane reasons or for reasons of safety to persons or animals, the Animal Control Officer, or other duly appointed Officer, in his or her sole discretion may destroy the dog in a humane manner as soon after capture as he or she thinks fit without permitting any persons to reclaim the dog or without offering it for sale, and in such an event no damages or compensation shall be recovered on account thereof.

7.7 Where a dog is alleged to have bitten any person, such dog may be impounded and held by the Animal Control Officer until proceedings under the Dog Owners' Liability Act have been followed provided that no dog so impounded shall be held for a period in excess of twenty-one (21) days unless otherwise ordered by the Provincial Judge.

## **8.0 Dog Waste**

8.1 Every person who owns, harbours, possesses or is in control of any dog shall remove forthwith and dispose of any excrement left by said dog on any property in the Township, other than the premises of the Owner of the dog.

## **9.0 Dangerous Dogs**

9.1 The Owner of a dog shall exercise all reasonable precautions to prevent the dog from:

- a) biting or attacking a person or domestic animal; or
- b) behaving in a manner that threatens or poses a menace to the safety of persons or domestic animals

9.2 Every Owner of a dog that has bitten a person or a domestic animal shall ensure that said dog is muzzled or leashed while said dog is on any property in the Township, including the premises of the Owner of the dog.

9.3 Where the Owner of a dog objects to the muzzling or leashing requirement set forth in section 9.2 above, the Owner may request and is entitled to a Hearing by the Council of the Township of Amaranth. The Council may, by Resolution, delegate the holding of the aforesaid Hearing to a Committee of Council or to the Animal Control Officer. Council or Committee of Council or the Animal Control Officer, if so delegated, may, in its/his/her sole discretion, uphold the provisions of section 9.2 above or exempt the Owner, with or without conditions, from the muzzling or leashing requirements contained in section 9.2 above.

9.4 Every Owner of a Dangerous Dog shall keep it indoors or in a secured yard that prevents the dog from escaping over or under the fence or by any other means, and that prevents access by the public. Dangerous Dogs shall not be confined only by a chain or tether.

9.5 Owners shall post warning signs clearly and visibly on the property where a Dangerous Dog is kept.

9.6 The Animal Control Officer may seize a dog in a public place if the officer believes on reasonable grounds that:

- a) the dog has on one or more occasions bitten or attacked a person or domestic animal;
- b) the dog has on one or more occasions behaved in a manner that poses a menace to the safety of persons or domestic animals;
- c) an owner of the dogs has on one or more occasions failed to exercise reasonable precautions from carrying out Section 9.6 (a) or (b) as described above;
- d) the dog is a restricted pit bull and an owner of the dog has on one or more occasions failed to comply with one or more if the requirements of this Act or the regulations respecting pit bulls



- e) the dog is a pit bull other than a restricted pit bull; or
- f) there is reason to believe that the dog may cause harm to a person or domestic animal.

## **10.0 Prohibition of Cruelty to Animals**

10.1 No person shall keep any domestic animal unless the animal is provided with:

- a) clean potable drinking water in spill proof containers at all times and suitable food of sufficient quantity and quality to allow for normal growth and the maintenance of normal body weight;
- b) food and water receptacles kept clean and disinfected and located so as to avoid contamination by excreta;
- c) the opportunity for periodic exercise sufficient to maintain good health;
- d) necessary veterinary medical care when the animal exhibits signs of pain or suffering.

10.2 No person shall keep any domestic animal which normally resides outside, or which is kept outside for short to extended periods of time, unless the animal is provided with outside shelter. The shelter must be weatherproof with an exterior windbreak and exterior door flap. The shelter door must face away from the prevailing wind and must be elevated off the ground. The shelter must be insulated:

- a) to ensure protection from heat, cold and wet;
- b) that is appropriate to the animal's weight and type of coat;
- c) that provides sufficient space to allow any animal the ability to turn about freely and to easily stand, sit and lie in a normal position;
- d) that is at least 1 1/2 times the length of the animal and at least the animal's length and width, and at least as high as the animal's height measured from the floor to the highest point of the animal when standing in a normal position plus 10%;
- e) that provides sufficient shade to protect the animal from the direct rays of the sun at all times;
- f) that is regularly cleaned and sanitized and all excreta removed at least once a day.

10.3 No person shall cause a domestic animal to be hitched, tied or fastened by any rope, chain or cord that is directly tied around the animal's neck on to a choke collar.

10.4 No person shall cause a domestic animal to be confined in an enclosed space, including a car, without adequate ventilation.

10.5 No person shall allow any domestic animal to suffer from any infectious disease.

## **11.0 Miscellaneous Matters**

- 11.1 The Township, its agents and servants and a Pound-Keeper shall not be liable for damages or compensation for any dog killed under the provisions of this By-law and no such damages or compensation shall be paid to any person.
- 11.2 The provisions of this By-law are severable and if any provisions of this By-law should, for any reason, be declared invalid or unenforceable by any court, the remaining provisions of the By-law shall remain in full force and effect and be interpreted in such a manner as the context permits in order to carry out their intent.

## **12.0 Protective Care and Impoundment**

- 12.1 An Officer may take possession of an animal for the purpose of providing protective care and is authorized to:
- a) Receive animals pursuant to an eviction, incarceration, fire or medical emergency, or for any other situation that the Officer deems appropriate;
  - b) Temporarily keep such animals for a maximum of five (5) days;
  - c) Charge the owner the current per diem sheltering fee and all costs for required veterinary medical care, when the animals are redeemed; and
  - d) At the end of the five (5) day protective care period, unless other arrangements are agreed to between the owner and the Township, treat such animals as day-one impounded animals.

## **13.0 Penalties**

- 13.1 Every person who contravenes any provisions of this By-law is guilty of an offence; and,
- a) in the case of person who is not a corporation, upon conviction therefore is liable to a fine or penalty of not more than Ten Thousand (\$10,000.00);
  - b) in the case of a corporation, upon conviction therefor is liable to a fine or penalty of not more than Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000.00).
- 13.2 The Animal Control Officer may enter, at all reasonable times, upon any property subject to the regulations of this By-law in order to ascertain whether such regulations or directions are being obeyed.
- 13.3 Any person convicted of an offence under this By-law may be liable to a penalty pursuant to s. 61 of the Provincial Offences Act R.S.O., 1990, c. P. 33.

## **14.0 Enactment**

- 14.1 Repeal - By-law 2013-1974 and 45-2005 is hereby repealed

14.2 Effective Date - This by-law shall come into force and effect upon final passage thereof. Any By-laws and/or resolutions that are inconsistent with the provisions of this By-law and the same are hereby repealed or rescinded insofar as it is necessary to give effect to the provisions of this By-law.

By-law Read A First And Second Time This 4<sup>th</sup> Day Of February 2026.

By-law Read A Third Time And Passed This 4<sup>th</sup> Day Of February 2026.



Head of Council



CAO/Clerk

The Corporation of The Township of Amaranth

By-law 2026- 08 Dogs & Kennels

Set Fines Under Part 1 Provincial Offences Act

| Item | Short Form Wording                                                         | Provision Creating<br>Or Defining The<br>Offence | Set Fine |
|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|----------|
| 1    | Failure to license dog                                                     | 3.1                                              | \$125.00 |
| 2    | Keep more than 3 dogs without kennel license                               | 3.2                                              | \$125.00 |
| 3    | Fail to affix dog tag                                                      | 3.5                                              | \$125.00 |
| 4    | Removal of dog tag                                                         | 3.6                                              | \$125.00 |
| 5    | Failure to pay Commercial Breeding/Boarding Kennel license fee             | 4.1.1                                            | \$125.00 |
| 6    | Failure to pay kennel license fee                                          | 4.1.1                                            | \$250.00 |
| 7    | Operate a kennel without a license                                         | 4.1.2                                            | \$250.00 |
| 8    | Failure to comply with standards for kennel construction                   | 4.1.3                                            | \$250.00 |
| 9    | Fail to display kennel license                                             | 4.1.2                                            | \$250.00 |
| 10   | Fail to maintain kennel in sanitary condition                              | 4.1.3                                            | \$250.00 |
| 11   | Keep animals in unsanitary condition                                       | 4.1.3                                            | \$250.00 |
| 12   | Allow dog to run at large                                                  | 7.1                                              | \$250.00 |
| 13   | Failure to remove dog waste                                                | 8.1                                              | \$250.00 |
| 14   | Fail to reasonably prevent dog from biting/attacking                       | 9.1                                              | \$250.00 |
| 15   | Failure to provide adequate food, water, exercise and adequate health care | 10.1                                             | \$250.00 |
| 16   | Failure to provide adequate shelter                                        | 10.2                                             | \$250.00 |
| 17   | Improper use of a restraint                                                | 10.3                                             | \$250.00 |
| 18   | Improper confinement                                                       | 10.4                                             | \$250.00 |
| 19   | Allow domestic animal to suffer from infectious disease                    | 10.5                                             | \$250.00 |
|      |                                                                            |                                                  |          |