



Bylaw #2026-09 Responsible Pet Ownership

BEING A BYLAW OF THE TOWN OF THORSBY IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA RESPECTING THE REGULATION, LICENSING, AND CONTROL OF DOGS WITHIN THE TOWN OF THORSBY.

- WHEREAS:** The *Municipal Government Act* enables a Council to pass Bylaws respecting dogs;
- AND WHEREAS:** The purpose of a municipality includes providing services that, in the opinion of Council, is necessary and desirable;
- AND WHEREAS:** It is desirable to pass a Bylaw dealing with the licensing and regulation of Dogs in the Town;
- NOW THEREFORE:** The Municipal Council of the Town of Thorsby, in the Province of Alberta, duly assembled, enacts as follows:

PART I – TITLE

1. This Bylaw may be cited as the “Responsible Pet Ownership” Bylaw.

PART II - DEFINITIONS

1. In this Bylaw, unless the context otherwise requires:
 - a) “**Animal**” means any bird, reptile, amphibian, or mammal excluding humans;
 - b) “**Animal Pound**” means the Town facility contracted or otherwise established for the holding of impounded Dogs as set out in this Bylaw;
 - c) “**Attack**” means an assault from multiple bites resulting in bleeding, bone breakage, sprains, serious bruising, or multiple injuries;
 - d) “**Bite**” means a wound to the skin causing it to bruise, puncture, or break;
 - e) “**CAO**” means the Chief Administrative Officer as appointed by Council of the Town of Thorsby;
 - f) “**Cemetery**” means land within the Town and managed and controlled by the Town that is set apart or used as a place for the burial of deceased human remains or parts thereof;
 - g) “**Distress**” means an animal who is experiencing any of the following:
 - a. Lack of adequate food or clean water.
 - b. Lack of appropriate care when sick or injured.
 - c. Lack of adequate shelter, ventilation, and space to move naturally.
 - d. Unreasonable exposure to injurious heat or cold.
 - e. Being abused or subjected to undue hardship.
 - h) “**Dog**” means a typically domesticated carnivorous mammal that typically has a long snout, an acute sense of smell, nonretractable claws, and a barking, howling, or whining voice, and whether male or female is a member of the canine family;
 - i) “**Former Owner**” means the person who at the time of impoundment was the Owner of a Dog which has subsequently been sold or destroyed;
 - j) “**Golf Course**” means land which is set aside for the playing of the game of golf and upon which the game of golf is played;
 - k) “**Justice**” has the meaning as defined in the Provincial Offences Procedure Act, R.S.A. 2000, c.P-34, as amended or replaced from time to time;
 - l) “**Leash**” means a chain or other material capable of restraining a Dog on which it is being used;
 - m) “**Livestock**” includes, but is not limited to:
 - a. a horse, mule, ass, swine, emu, ostrich, camel, llama, alpaca, sheep or goat,
 - b. domestically reared or kept deer, reindeer, moose, elk, or bison,
 - c. farm bred fur bearing Animals including foxes or mink,
 - d. Animals of the bovine species,
 - e. Animals of the avian species including chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese, or pheasants; and
 - f. all other animals that are kept for agricultural purposes, but does not include Dogs, or other domesticated household pets;

- n) **"Muzzle"** means a device of sufficient strength placed over a Dog's mouth to prevent it from biting;
 - o) **"Nuisance Dog"** means a Dog declared to be a nuisance Dog by the CAO or a Peace Officer in accordance with Section 24 of this Bylaw;
 - p) **"Owner"** means any natural person or body corporate who:
 - a. is the licensed Owner of a Dog;
 - b. has legal title to a Dog;
 - c. has possession or custody of a Dog, either temporarily or permanently; or
 - d. harbours a Dog, or allows a Dog to remain on his premises;
 - q) **"Park"** means a public space controlled by the Town of Thorsby and set aside as a park to be used by the public for rest, recreation, exercise, pleasure, amusement, and enjoyment and includes: Playgrounds, Cemeteries, Nature areas, Sports fields, Pathways, Trails, and Park roadways but does not include golf courses.
 - r) **"Pathway/Trail"** means a multi-purpose thoroughfare controlled by The Town and set aside for use by Pedestrians, cyclists and Persons using Wheeled Conveyances, which is improved by gravel, asphalt, concrete or brick, whether or not it is located in a park, and includes any bridge or structure with which it is contiguous;
 - s) **"Peace Officer"** means a Bylaw Enforcement Officer appointed by the Town, any Peace Officer appointed under the Peace Officer Act of Alberta, any Police Officer appointed under the Police Act of Alberta, any sworn member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and any sworn member of the Canadian Forces Military Police appointed under the National Defense Act.
 - t) **"Playground"** means land within the Town and controlled by The Town upon which apparatus such as swings and slides are placed;
 - u) **"Provincial Court"** means The Alberta Court of Justice including any subsequent changes to its title;
 - v) **"Running at Large"** means a Dog which is not under the control of a person responsible by means of a leash and is off the property of the Owner of the Dog or property the Dog has permission to be on by the authority of the listed property owner or authorized tenant.
 - w) **"School Grounds"** means that area of land adjacent to a school and that is property owned or occupied by any School Board of Education;
 - x) **"Severe Injury"** includes any injury resulting in broken bone or bones, disfiguring lacerations, sutures, cosmetic surgery and further includes any other injury as determined to be severe by a court upon hearing the evidence;
 - y) **"Sports Field"** means land within the Town and controlled by The Town which is set apart and used for the playing of a sport including baseball diamonds, field hockey or cricket pitches, and rugby, soccer or football fields;
 - z) **"Town"** means the municipal corporation of the Town of Thorsby, its Town Manager and designate, or the area contained within the corporate boundary thereof as the context requires;
 - aa) **"Town Manager"** means the person designated by Council as the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) of the Town or that person's designate;
 - bb) **"Vicious Dog"** means any Dog, whatever its age, whether on public or private property, which has:
 - a. Chased, injured, or bitten any other wild or domestic animal or human,
 - b. Damaged or destroyed any public or private property, or
 - c. Threatened or created the reasonable apprehension of a threat to a human, and which, in the opinion of a Justice, presents a threat of serious harm to other wild or domestic animals or humans, or
 - d. Been previously determined to be a Vicious Dog under this Bylaw or the Bylaw of another jurisdiction within the Province of Alberta
 - cc) **"Wading or Swimming Area"** means any area designated as an outdoor wading or swimming area. This shall include any decks surrounding such facility and shall include that area within twenty (20) metres in all directions of the outside dimensions of such facility unless the park boundary is a lesser distance.
2. Each provision of this Bylaw is independent of all other provisions and if any provision is declared invalid for any reason by a court of competent jurisdiction, all other provisions of this Bylaw remain valid and enforceable.

3. Nothing in this Bylaw relieves a person from complying with any provision of any federal or provincial law or regulation, other Bylaw or any requirement of any lawful permit, order or licence.
4. Any heading, sub-headings, or tables of contents in this Bylaw are included for guidance purposes and convenience only and shall not form part of this Bylaw.
5. Where this Bylaw refers to another Act, Bylaw, regulation or agency, it includes reference to any Act, Bylaw, regulation or agency that may be substituted, therefore.
6. All the schedules attached to this Bylaw shall form a part of this Bylaw.
7. This Bylaw does not apply to the Town in respect of Animals used by or on behalf of the Town for the purpose of land management, including weed control, on Town owned lands.
8. Each provision of this Bylaw is independent of all other provisions and if any provision is declared invalid for any reason by a court of competent jurisdiction, all other provisions of this Bylaw remain valid and enforceable.
9. Nothing in this Bylaw relieves a person from complying with any provision of any federal or provincial law or regulation, other Bylaw or any requirement of any lawful permit, order or licence.
10. Any heading, sub-headings, or tables of contents in this Bylaw are included for guidance purposes and convenience only and shall not form part of this Bylaw.
11. Where this Bylaw refers to another Act, Bylaw, regulation or agency, it includes reference to any Act, Bylaw, regulation or agency that may be substituted, therefore.
12. All the schedules attached to this Bylaw shall form a part of this Bylaw.
13. This Bylaw does not apply to the Town in respect of Animals used by or on behalf of the Town for the purpose of land management, including weed control, on Town owned lands.

PART III – LICENSING REQUIREMENTS AND RELATED OFFENSES

DOG LICENSING

1. No person shall own or keep any Dog within the Town unless such Dog is licensed in the manner required in this Bylaw.
2. The holder of a Dog license must be eighteen (18) years of age.
3. A Dog license shall only be valid for one (1) Dog and each Dog owned requires a separate license and tag which shall not be placed on a different Dog.
4. The Owner of a Dog shall:
 - a. Ensure that their Dog wears the current licence purchased for that Dog when the Dog is off the property of the Owner;
 - b. Obtain a licence on the first day on which the Town office is open for business after they become the Owner of a Dog who is three (3) months of age or within seven (7) days upon moving to the Town;
 - c. Obtain a licence for a Dog notwithstanding section 3.(4)(b), where the Dog is found Running at Large; and
 - d. Obtain an annual Dog licence for the Dog by January 31st each year.
5. The onus for proving the age of a Dog shall rest on the Owner alleging the age.



Bylaw #2026-09 Responsible Pet Ownership

6. A Dog license shall be valid from the day of purchase and expire on December 31st of each year at 23:59 hours.
7. No violation tickets may be issued for a Dog that is not licensed in the month of January each year unless the Dog was not licensed in the previous year. The month of January shall be considered a grace month to all Town residents to provide ample time to license their Dog(s).

VICIOUS DOG LICENSING

8. No person shall own or keep any Vicious Dog within the Town unless such Dog is licensed as required in this Bylaw.
9. The holder of a Vicious Dog license must be eighteen (18) years of age.
10. A Vicious Dog license shall only be valid for one (1) Dog and each Vicious Dog owned requires a separate license and tag which shall not be placed on a different Dog.
11. The Owner of a Vicious Dog shall:
 - a. Ensure that their Dog wears the current licence purchased for that Dog when the Dog is off the property of the Owner;
 - b. Obtain a licence for the Dog on the first day on which the Town office is open for business after the Dog has been declared as vicious, or within seven (7) days upon moving to the Town; and
 - c. Obtain an annual licence for the Vicious Dog by January 31st each year.

LICENSING INFORMATION

12. When applying for a licence under this Bylaw, the Owner shall provide the following:
 - a. A description of the Dog or Vicious Dog, including breed, name, gender and age;
 - b. The name, address, and telephone number of the Owner;
 - c. Where the Owner is a corporate body, the name, address, and telephone number of the natural person responsible for the Dog, or Vicious Dog; and
 - d. Information establishing that the Dog, or Vicious Dog, is neutered or spayed.
13. A Dog license shall not be issued to anyone unless they provide all information as required in Section 3(13) of this Bylaw.
14. The annual licence fee for each Dog, Vicious Dog, or Nuisance Dog, is set out in Schedule "A" of this Bylaw and the fee shall not be reduced for licenses purchased later in the year.
15. No person shall give false information when applying for a Dog licence pursuant to this Bylaw.
16. The onus of proving a person has a valid and subsisting Dog licence is on the person alleging the licence.
17. An Owner shall forthwith notify the Town of any change to address, name, or phone number that was previously provided in an application for a Dog licence under this Bylaw.
18. The Town shall maintain a Dog license registry in the format as prescribed in Schedule "B" of this Bylaw.
19. Any person who owns or occupies a dwelling unit (as defined by the Land Use Bylaw), is guilty of an offence if he or she has more than two (2) Dogs over the age of three months and two (2) Cats over the age of three months on any land which contains or is permitted under the Land Use Bylaw to contain, a dwelling unit and, each Dog or Cat past the allowable limit constitutes a separate offence.



Bylaw #2026-09 Responsible Pet Ownership

REPLACEMENT OF LOST LICENSE

20. Upon losing a licence, an Owner of a licensed Dog shall present the receipt for payment of the current years licence fee to the Town, and the Town will issue a new tag to the Owner for the fee set out in Schedule "A" of this Bylaw.

NON-TRANSFERABLE

21. A license issued pursuant to this Bylaw is not transferable.

NO REBATE

22. No person shall be entitled to a licence rebate or refund under this Bylaw.

PART IV – GENERAL OFFENCES

1. No Owner of an Animal shall allow the Animal to be in a state of suffering or distress;
2. The Owner of a Dog shall ensure that such Dog is not running at Large;
3. The Owner of a Dog shall ensure that such Dog always remains under the Owner's control at all times; and
4. When off the Owners property, ensure that the dog is on a leash no greater than two (2) meters in length.
5. No animal may be held or kept within the town limits that is on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) list maintained by Environment Canada.

REMOVING EXCREMENT

6. The Owner of an Animal shall forthwith remove any excrement their Animal places anywhere other than on property owned by the Animal Owner.
7. If an Animal is on any public or private property other than the property of its Owner, the Owner shall have in his possession a suitable means of facilitating the removal of the Animal's feces.
8. The Owner of an Animal shall not allow an accumulation of excrement on their property.
9. An excessive accumulation of excrement shall be determined by a Peace Officer.

NOISE

10. The Owner of an Animal, Dog, or Vicious Dog, shall ensure that such animal shall not bark, howl, or otherwise make or cause a noise or noises which disturbs any person.
11. Whether any sound annoys or disturbs a person, or otherwise constitutes objectionable noise, is a question of fact to be determined by a Peace Officer.

SCATTERING GARBAGE

12. The Owner of an animal shall ensure that such animal shall not upset any waste receptacles or scatter the contents thereof either in or about a street, lane, or other public property or in or about premises not belonging to or in the possession of the Owner of the animal.



Bylaw #2026-09 Responsible Pet Ownership

PART V – OFF-LEASH AREAS

1. The Owner of a Dog is not required to have the Dog on a Leash in an area that has been designated as an off-Leash area by the Town.
2. The Owner of a Dog in an off-Leash area shall ensure that such Dog is under control at all times.
3. No Owner of a Vicious Dog shall permit the Dog to be in an off-leash area at any time;
4. A Peace Officer may:
 - a. Order that a Dog be put on a Leash; and
 - b. Order that a Dog be removed from an off-leash area.
5. In deciding whether a dog is under control, a Peace Officer shall consider the following:
 - a. Whether the Dog is at such a distance from its Owner as to be incapable of responding to voice, sound, or line-of-sight commands;
 - b. Whether the Dog has responded to voice, sound, or line-of-sight commands from the Owner;
 - c. Whether the Dog has bitten, attacked, or done any act that injures a person or another animal;
 - d. Whether the Dog chased or otherwise threatened a person; or
 - e. Whether the Dog caused damage to property.
6. Nothing in this Section relieves a person from complying with any other provisions of this Bylaw.

PART VI – DOGS IN PROHIBITED AREAS

1. The Owner of a Dog shall ensure that such Dog does not enter or remain in or on:
 - a. A Playground, Sports Field, Cemetery, Wading or Swimming Area;
 - b. A park, or any part thereof, where the Dog is within five (5) meters of a play structure, Playground, a Wading Pool or Swimming Area, a Sports Field, or a Cemetery; or
 - c. Any other area where Dogs are prohibited by a posted sign(s) whether on public or private property.
2. The Owner of a Dog may allow such Dog to pass along or across a Pathway/Trail, including a Pathway/Trail that runs through an area designated as a Dog prohibited area, unless blocked by a physical barrier such as a gate, only if such Dog:
 - a. Remains on the right-hand side of the pathway at all times unless passing other Pathway users; and
 - b. Ensures that the Dog does not interfere with a Pathway user.
 - c. Dogs shall not obstruct a Pathway.

SWIMMING IN PARKS

3. The Owner of a Dog shall ensure that such Dog does not enter or swim in any body of water owned by the Town, unless specifically permitted by the Town.

PART VII – UNATTENDED DOGS

1. The Owner of a Dog shall ensure that such Dog shall not be left unattended while tethered or tied on premises in a publicly accessible area, whether the access is express or implied.
2. The Owner of a Dog shall ensure that such Dog shall not be left unsupervised while tethered or tied on private property.
3. The Owner of a Dog left unattended in a motor vehicle shall ensure:
 - a. The Dog is restrained in a manner that prevents contact between the Dog and any member of the public; and
 - b. The Dog has suitable ventilation.

4. The Owner of a Dog shall not leave a Dog unattended in a motor vehicle if the weather conditions are not suitable for containment of a Dog.
5. Where a Dog is left unattended, and in the opinion of a Peace Officer is in distress, the Peace Officer may take reasonable steps to rescue the Dog and the Owner of the Dog shall be liable for any destruction of property, such as the kicking down of a door, fence, or shattering of motor vehicle windows in order that the Dog may be rescued.

PART VIII – TRANSPORTATION WITH A DOG

SECURING DOGS IN VEHICLES

1. No person shall allow a Dog to be outside of the passenger cab of a motor vehicle, regardless of whether the motor vehicle is moving or parked, including riding in the back of a pick-up truck unless the dog is:
 - a. In a fully enclosed trailer;
 - b. In the bed of a truck if it is fully enclosed;
 - c. Contained in a ventilated kennel or similar device securely fastened to the bed of the truck; or
 - d. Securely tethered in such a manner that it is not standing on bare metal, cannot jump or be thrown from the vehicle, is not in danger of strangulation, and cannot reach beyond the outside edges of the vehicle.

CYCLING WITH DOGS

2. When operating a bicycle or wheeled conveyance within the Town, no person shall do so with any Dog tethered to the driver or the conveyance.
3. Part VII(2) shall not apply to persons operating a device designed for persons with disabilities.

PART IX – THREATENING BEHAVIOURS

1. The owner of an Animal or Dog shall ensure that such Animal shall not:
 - a. Bite a person, Animal, or Dog;
 - b. Attack a person, Animal, or Dog;
 - c. Chase a person or animal other than a person who is deemed to be a trespasser, as defined by the Petty Trespass Act, Trespass to Premises Act, and or the Criminal Code of Canada, and is on the property of the Dog Owner or is permitted to occupy by the lawful owner of the property;
 - d. Chase a bicycle, OHV, or motor vehicle, as defined in the Traffic Safety Act of Alberta;
 - e. Cause damage to property other than the property of the Dog Owner;
 - f. Cause death to another Animal; or
 - g. Cause death to a person.
 - i. In the event that an Animal or Dog is determined by Police and or the Medical Examiner to have killed a person, the Crown shall seek the full financial penalty allowable under this Bylaw.
2. No Owner shall use or direct a Dog/Animal to attack, chase, bite, kill, or threaten a person or another Animal including Livestock.

PART X – DECLARING A VICIOUS DOG AND REGULATIONS

HEARINGS AND ORDERS

1. The Owner of a Dog alleged to be a Vicious Dog shall be provided notice of a hearing for determination by the Provincial Court ten (10) clear days before the date of the hearing.

2. The Owner of a Dog alleged to be a Vicious Dog shall surrender the Dog to a Peace Officer pending the outcome of the Hearing and any appeals and be responsible for any fees incurred due to impounding the Dog.
3. Upon hearing the evidence, the Justice may make an order declaring the Dog as a Vicious Dog or ordering the Dog destroyed, or both, if in the opinion of the Justice that the Dog is likely to cause serious damage or injury, taking into account the following factors:
 - a. whether the Dog has chased any person or Dog;
 - b. whether the Dog has attempted to bite, or has bitten any person or Dog;
 - c. whether the Dog has Wounded, Attacked or Injured any person or Dog;
 - d. the circumstances surrounding any previous Biting, Attacking, or Wounding incidents; and
 - e. whether the Dog, when unprovoked, has shown a tendency to pursue, chase or approach in a menacing fashion, persons upon the street, sidewalk or any public or private property.
4. The order of a Justice declaring a Dog a Vicious Dog shall embody all of the requirements of this Bylaw.
5. A Vicious Dog order pursuant to this Bylaw continues to apply if the Dog is sold, given or transferred to a new Owner.

VISCIOUS DOG REGULATIONS

6. Upon a Dog being designated a Vicious Dog and prior to a license being issued, the Owner of a Vicious Dog shall within ten (10) days after the Dog has been declared Vicious:
 - a. Have a licensed veterinarian tattoo on, or implant in an electronic identification microchip in/on the Vicious Dog; and
 - b. Provide the information contained on the tattoo or in the microchip to the Town.
7. If the Dog is in an unaltered state, have the Dog neutered or spayed.
8. The Owner of a Vicious Dog shall:
 - a. Notify the Town should the Vicious Dog be sold, gifted, or transferred to another person or die; and
 - b. Remain liable for the actions of the Vicious Dog until formal notification of sale, gift or transfer is given to the Town.
9. The Owner of a Vicious Dog shall ensure that such Dog does not:
 - a. Chase a person, Animal, or Dog;
 - b. Injure a person, Animal, or Dog;
 - c. Bite a person, Animal, or Dog;
 - d. Attack a person, Animal, or Dog;
 - e. Cause death to an Animal or Dog;
 - f. Cause death to a person; or
 - g. Damage or destroy public or private property.
10. The Owner of a Vicious Dog shall ensure that such Dog is not Running at Large.
11. The Owner of a Vicious Dog shall notify a Peace Officer if the Dog is Running at Large.
12. The Owner of a Vicious Dog shall ensure that when off the property of the Owner, such Dog is securely:
 - a. Under the control of a person over the age of eighteen (18) years;
 - b. Muzzled; and
 - c. Harnessed or Leashed, and that such Leash shall not exceed one (1) metre in length.
13. The Owner of a Vicious Dog shall ensure that when on the property of the Owner such Dog is:
 - a. Under the control of a person over the age of eighteen (18) years;
 - b. In a locked pen or other structure, as may be required pursuant to a Court Order made under Section 20 and that the construction be consistent with Section 21(9).

14. The Owner of a Vicious Dog shall ensure that an outdoor pen or other structure shall:
 - a. Have secure sides and a secure top, and if it has no bottom secured to the sides, the sides must be embedded in the ground to a minimum depth of thirty (30) centimeters;
 - b. Be capable of being securely locked;
 - c. Be of the minimum dimensions of one and one-half (1.5) metres by three (3) metres and be a minimum one and one-half (1.5) metres in height; and
 - d. Not be within one (1) metre of the property line or within five (5) metres of a neighbouring dwelling unit.
15. The Owner of a Vicious Dog shall, within 10 days of the date of being declared Vicious, display a sign on his/her premises warning of the presence of the Dog in the form illustrated in Schedule "C" and be placed at each entrance to the premises where the Dog is kept and in the pen or other structure which confines the Vicious Dog.
16. A sign required by this Bylaw shall be posted to be clearly visible and capable of being seen by any person accessing the premises.

PART XI – DOGS SUSPECTED OF HAVING COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

1. An Owner of a Dog suspected of having rabies shall immediately:
 - a. Report the matter to the Town and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency;
 - b. Isolate the Dog in such a manner so as to prevent further spread of the disease for a period of ten (10) days
2. In the event of an outbreak, or threat of an outbreak of a communicable disease affecting Dogs, which may be transmitted to human beings, Council may by resolution, order and direct that all Dogs be confined entirely to the Owner's premises.
3. When an animal under quarantine has been diagnosed as rabid or suspected by a licensed veterinarian as being affected by a communicable disease and dies while under observation, a Peace Officer shall immediately send the complete body of such Dog to the appropriate health department for pathological examination and shall notify the Medical Officer of Health for the Town of reports of human contact, and the diagnosis made of suspected animals.
4. During such period of a communicable disease quarantine as herein mentioned, every Animal or Dog bitten by a Animal or Dog adjudged to be affected by said disease, shall forthwith be humanely euthanized, or at the Owner's expense an option shall be treat for the disease infection by a licensed veterinarian or held under quarantine by the Owner in the same manner as other Dogs are in quarantine.
5. The carcass of any dead animal exposed to a communicable disease shall upon demand be surrendered to a Peace Officer.
6. A Peace Officer shall direct the disposition of any deceased Animal found to be infected with a communicable disease.

PART XII – NUISANCE DOGS

1. The Town Manager or a Peace Officer may declare a Dog to be a Nuisance Dog.
2. The declaration of a Dog as a Nuisance Dog shall be reviewed annually by the Town Manager or a Peace Officer.

PART XIII – DOG/ANIMAL SEIZURE

1. A Peace Officer may capture and impound any Animal, Dog, or Vicious Dog:
 - a. Found Running at Large;
 - b. Which has bitten, or is alleged to have bitten a person or Animal, pending the outcome of an application to declare the Dog to be a Vicious Dog or to destroy the Dog; or



Bylaw #2026-09 Responsible Pet Ownership

- c. Which is required to be impounded pursuant to the provisions of any Statute of Canada or of the Province of Alberta, or any Regulation made thereunder.

NOTIFICATION

2. A person who takes control of any found Animal, Dog, or Vicious Dog, shall forthwith notify a Peace Officer and provide any required information.
3. Failing to inform a Peace Officer of a found Animal/Dog or keeping a found Animal/Dog not belonging to the finder, constitutes an offence under this Bylaw.
4. A person who takes control of any found Animal/Dog shall forthwith surrender the Animal to a Peace Officer.
5. A Peace Officer shall make every reasonable effort, such as searching the Dog for tattoos and microchips, and posting the Dog onto the Town social media pages to discover who is the Owner of the Dog and reunite the two.

OBSTRUCTION AND INTERFERENCE

6. No person, whether the Owner of a Dog or Vicious Dog or not, which is being or has been pursued or captured by a Peace Officer shall:
 - a. Interfere with or attempt to obstruct a Peace Officer who is attempting to capture or who has captured a Dog which is subject to impoundment or seizure;
 - b. Open the vehicle in which a Dog has been captured for impoundment or seizure;
 - c. Remove, or attempt to remove any Dog from the possession of a Peace Officer.
7. No person shall interfere with an animal by doing the following:
 - a. Untie, loosen or otherwise free an Animal or Dog which has been tied or otherwise restrained;
 - b. Negligently or willfully open a gate, door or other opening in a fence or enclosure in which an animal has been confined and thereby allow the animal to run at large in the Town;
 - c. Entice an Animal/Dog to run at large;
 - d. Tease an Animal/Dog; or
 - e. Throw an object at or use it to poke/stab an Animal/Dog.

RECLAIMING AND SALE

8. The Owner of any impounded Dog or Vicious Dog may reclaim the animal by:
 - a. Collecting the animal from the Animal Pound contracted by the Town and settling any debts held over the Animal.
 - b. Collecting the animal from the Town Pound if the Town so wishes to have one.
9. Where a Dog or Vicious Dog is claimed, the Owner shall provide proof of ownership of the Animal.
10. The Town Manager, a Peace Officer, or the Animal Pound on behalf of the Town, may offer for sale, euthanize, or otherwise dispose of all unclaimed Dogs which have been received by a Peace Officer subject to the following:
 - a. A Dog shall not be sold unless seventy-two (72) hours have passed since the dog was taken into the care of a Peace Officer.
 - b. A Dog shall not be euthanized due to being in the care of the Town or Animal Pound for extended periods of time unless Ten (10) days have passed since the day and time the Animal was taken into the care of a Peace Officer.

REQUIRE SPAY/NEUTER

11. The Town Manager or a Peace Officer may, before selling an unclaimed Dog, require that the Dog be spayed or neutered.
12. The animal pound contracted by the Town may, before selling an unclaimed Dog, require that the Dog be spayed or neutered and that the costs paid by the Owner, or new Owner after sale.



Bylaw #2026-09 Responsible Pet Ownership

FULL RIGHT AND TITLE

13. The purchaser of a Dog from the Town of Thorsby pursuant to the provisions of this Bylaw shall obtain full right and title to it and the right and title of the Former Owner of the Dog shall cease thereupon.

NATURAL OR MAN-MADE DISASTERS

14. A Peace Officer may:
 - a. Receive a Dogs into protective care pursuant to a fire, flood, or other reasons;
 - b. Retain the Dogs temporarily;
 - c. At the end of the protective care period, if no other arrangements are made between the Owner and a Peace Officer, treat such Dogs as an impounded Dogs.
15. All fees incurred by the Town during an impoundment during a disaster shall be the sole responsibility of the Animal Owner.
16. A Peace Officer may retain a Dog for a longer period if in his/her opinion, the circumstances warrant the expense, or he/she has reasonable grounds to believe that the Dog is a continued danger to persons, animals, or property.

PART XIV – INSPECTIONS/VERIFICATIONS

1. Subject to the entry notice provisions of the Municipal Government Act, R.S.A. 2000 c.M-26, a Peace Officer, bearing proper identification, may enter a premises to conduct an inspection in order to determine whether or not this Bylaw or an order issued pursuant to this Bylaw is being complied with.
2. No person shall interfere with or attempt to obstruct a Peace Officer who is attempting to conduct an inspection or verification of compliance with this Bylaw or a court order issued under this Bylaw.

PART XV – EUTHANASIA

1. When a Peace Officer decides to euthanize a Dog in accordance with his/her authority under the Animal Protection Act or Dangerous Dogs Act, the Owner shall pay all associated costs.

PART XVI – CONTRAVENTION OF THE BYLAW

OFFENCES FOR OWNERS

1. If an animal is involved in a contravention of this Bylaw, the Owner of that animal is guilty of an offence.

CONTINUING OFFENCES

2. In the case of an offence that is of a continuing nature, a contravention constitutes a separate offence in respect of each day, or part of a day, on which the offence continues and any person guilty of such an offence is liable to a fine in an amount not less than that established by this Bylaw for each such day.

PART XVII – MANDATORY COURT OR INFORMATION

1. This Section shall not prevent any Peace Officer from issuing a Violation Ticket requiring the court appearance of the defendant, pursuant to the provisions of the Provincial Offences Procedure Act, R.S.A. 2000, c.P-34, or from laying an information instead of issuing a Violation Ticket.

PART XVIII – LIABILITY FOR FEES

1. The levying and payment of any fine or the imprisonment for any period provided in this Bylaw shall not relieve a person from the necessity of paying any fees, charges or costs from which he is liable under the provisions of this Bylaw.

PART XIX – ORDERS BY A JUSTICE

1. A Justice, after convicting an Owner of an offence under this Bylaw may, if the Justice considers the offence sufficiently serious, direct, order, or declare one or more of the following:
 - a. That the Owner prevent the Dog from doing mischief or causing the disturbance or nuisance complained of;
 - b. That the Dog is a Vicious Dog;
 - c. That the Dog be destroyed; or
 - d. That the Owner be prohibited from owning any Dog for a specified period of time.

PART XX – CERTIFIED COPY OF RECORDS

1. A copy of a record of the Town, certified by the Town Manager or a Peace Officer, as a true copy of the original, shall be admitted in evidence as proof of the facts stated in the record without proof of the appointment or signature of the person signing it.

PART XXI – EXEMPTION FOR POLICE SERVICE DOGS/EMERGENCY SERVICE DOGS

1. This Bylaw does not apply to a Municipal Police / RCMP Service Dog or Emergency Search and Rescue Dog while it is in Active Service.

PART XXII – VIOLATION TICKETS PENALTIES

1. Any person violating a provision of this Bylaw is liable to the specified penalty set out in schedule “D” of this Bylaw or on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) and/or imprisonment for not more than six (6) months.
2. A Peace Officer is hereby authorized to issue a Municipal Violation Tag or a Violation Ticket with a specified penalty set out in Schedule “D” pursuant to the Provincial Offences Procedure Act, R.S.A. 2000, c. P-34, as amended, and regulations thereunder, for any contravention made under this Bylaw.
3. Nothing in this Bylaw shall prevent a Peace Officer from immediately laying an information or issuing a Violation Ticket for the mandatory court appearance of any person who contravenes any provision of this Bylaw.
4. Where a Peace Officer has reasonable grounds to believe that a person has contravened any provision of this Bylaw:
 - a. He/she may serve upon the person a Violation Ticket allowing payment of the specified fine as set out in Schedule “D” of this Bylaw, which payment will be accepted by the Province on behalf of the Town in accordance with the Provincial Offences Procedure Act, R.S.A. 2000, c. P-34 and amendments thereto, allowing a voluntary payment or requiring a person to appear in court, without the alternative of making a voluntary payment.
5. Penalties for a second, third and subsequent offences will be applicable where those offences occur within one (1) year from the date of the first offence as specified in Schedule “D”.



Bylaw #2026-09 Responsible Pet Ownership

PART XXIII – VIOLATION TICKETS PENALTIES

1. It is the intention of the Town Council that each separate provision of this Bylaw shall be deemed independent of all other provisions, and it is further the intention of the Town Council that if any provisions of this Bylaw be declared invalid, all other provisions shall remain valid and enforceable

PART XXIV – VIOLATION TICKETS PENALTIES

1. No action lies against a Peace Officer, registered veterinarian, caretaker, humane society or an employee of a humane society for anything done in good faith under this Bylaw.
2. If a person, on reasonable and probable grounds, believes an animal is in distress and reports the distress to a Peace Officer, no action lies against that person for reporting unless that person reports maliciously or without reasonable or probable grounds for the belief.

PART XXV - REPEAL

1. Upon third and final reading of Bylaw #2026-09 Responsible Pet Ownership, Bylaw #2022-07 and all amendments hereto are hereby repealed.

PART XXVI – EFFECTIVE DATE

1. This Bylaw shall come into force and have effect upon the third and final reading.

READ A FIRST TIME this 23rd day of June, 2026

READ A SECOND TIME this 28th day of July, 2026

READ A THIRD AND FINAL TIME this 28th day of July, 2026

Darryl Hostyn, Mayor

Donna Tona, CAO



SCHEDULE A – LICENSE FEES

Item	Cost in CAD, GST EXEMPT
Male/Female Unaltered Dog License	\$50.00
Male/Female Altered Dog License	\$25.00
Vicious Dog License	\$200.00
Replacement (Lost/Stolen) Tag	\$15.00

[illegible]

SCHEDULE C – VICIOUS DOG SIGN

Sign required for a Vicious Dog pursuant to this Bylaw, similar to below:





Bylaw #2026-09
Responsible Pet Ownership

SCHEDULE D – SPECIFIED PENALTIES

SPECIFIED PENALTIES				
Part	Offence Description	1 st Offence	2 nd Offence	3 rd or Subsequent Offence
3(1)	Dog not licensed	\$100.00	\$150.00	\$200.00
3(3)	Place Tag on Incorrect Dog	\$50.00	\$100.00	\$150.00
3(4)(a)	Dog not wearing license off Owner Property	\$50.00	\$100.00	\$150.00
3(15)	Give false info when applying for a Dog license	\$50.00	\$100.00	\$150.00
3(17)	Fail to update Town with changes to address, name, number	\$50.00	\$100.00	\$150.00
3(19)	Possess more than the allowed number of animals	\$100.00	\$150.00	\$200.00
4(2)	Running at large	\$150.00	\$250.00	\$350.00
4(3)	Dog not under Owners control	150.00	\$200.00	\$250.00
4(4)	Dog leash longer then 2 meters	\$50.00	\$100.00	\$150.00
4(5)	Fail to remove excrement	\$150.00	\$200.00	\$250.00
4(7)	Fail to possess excrement removal device off own property	\$50.00	\$100.00	\$150.00
4(8)	Excessive accumulation of excrement	\$100.00	\$150.00	\$200.00
4(10)	Animal make noise which disturbs a person	\$150.00	\$200.00	\$250.00
4(12)	Animal scattering garbage/refuse	\$50.00	\$100.00	\$150.00
5(2)	Dog not under control in off-Leash area	\$100.00	\$150.00	\$200.00
5(4)(a)	Fail to restrain Dog in off-Leash area upon request of PO	\$100.00	\$150.00	\$200.00
5(4)(b)	Fail to remove Dog from off-Leash area upon request of PO	\$100.00	\$150.00	\$200.00
6(1)(a)	Dog in specified prohibited area	\$100.00	\$150.00	\$200.00
6(1)(b)	Dog within 5 meters of a specified prohibited area	\$100.00	\$150.00	\$200.00
6(1)(c)	Dog in prohibited are with posted sign(s)	\$100.00	\$150.00	\$200.00
6(2)(a)	Dog not on right side of Pathway	\$50.00	\$100.00	\$150.00
6(2)(b)	Dog interfere with Pathway user	\$50.00	\$100.00	\$150.00
6(2)(c)	Dog obstruct a Pathway	\$50.00	\$100.00	\$150.00
6(3)	Dog swimming in Town owned body of water w/o permission	\$100.00	\$150.00	\$200.00
7(1)	Dog unattended while tethered in public accessible area	\$150.00	\$200.00	\$250.00
7(2)	Dog unattended while tethered on private property	\$100.00	\$150.00	\$200.00
7(3)(a)	Dog unattended in a MV and accessible to the public	\$100.00	\$150.00	\$200.00
7(3)(b)	Dog without ventilation in a MV	\$200.00	\$300.00	\$400.00
7(4)	Dog in unsuitable condition in a MV	\$200.00	\$300.00	\$400.00
8(1)	Failure to secure a Dog in a MV	\$150.00	\$200.00	\$250.00
8(2)	Cycle with a Dog Tethered	\$150.00	\$200.00	\$250.00
9(1)(a)	Animal/Dog Bite a person/Animal/Dog	\$200.00	\$300.00	COURT
9(1)(b)	Animal/Dog Attach a person/Animal/Dog	\$250.00	\$500.00	COURT
9(1)(c)	Animal/Dog chase a person/Animal/Dog	\$200.00	\$250.00	\$300.00
9(1)(d)	Chase a bicycle/OHV/MV	\$200.00	\$250.00	\$300.00
9(1)(e)	Animal/Dog damage property	\$200.00	\$300.00	\$400.00
9(1)(f)	Animal/Dog kill Animal/Dog	\$5,000.00	COURT	COURT
9(1)(g)	Animal/Dog kill a person	COURT	COURT	COURT
9(2)	Direct a Dog/Animal to Attack/chase/Bite/kill person/Animal	\$1,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$2,000.00
11(1)(a)	Fail to report suspected case of rabies	\$500.00	COURT	COURT



Bylaw #2026-09 Responsible Pet Ownership

Part	Offence Description	1 st Offence	2 nd Offence	3 rd or Subsequent Offence
11(1)(b)	Fail to isolate Dog with suspected rabies	\$500.00	COURT	COURT
11(2)	Fail to isolate Dog at home as per order in Town Council	\$500.00	COURT	COURT
13(6)(a)	Interfere/Obstruct PO attempt capture or has captured Dog	\$500.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,500.00
13(6)(b)	Open the MV in which a Dog was placed after capture	\$500.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,500.00
13(6)(c)	Remove/attempt remove Dog in possession of PO	\$500.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,500.00
13(7)(a)	Untie/loosen/free restrained Animal/Dog	\$150.00	\$200.00	\$250.00
13(7)(b)	Negligently/Willfully open gate/door/fence Dog Run at Large	\$150.00	\$200.00	\$250.00
13(7)(c)	Entice Animal/Dog to Run at Large	\$150.00	\$250.00	\$350.00
13(7)(d)	Tease Animal/Dog	\$100.00	\$150.00	\$200.00
13(7)(e)	Throw object at/use to poke Animal/Dog	\$150.00	\$200.00	\$250.00
14(2)	Interfere/Obstruct PO conducting inspection/verification	\$250.00	\$500.00	\$750.00
VICIOUS DOG SPECIFIED PENALTIES				
3(8)	Vicious Dog not licensed	\$250.00	\$500.00	\$750.00
3(10)	Place Vicious Dog Tag on incorrect Dog	\$100.00	\$200.00	\$300.00
3(11)(a)	Vicious Dog not wearing license off Owner Property	\$100.00	\$150.00	\$200.00
5(3)	Vicious Dog in off-Leash Area	\$250.00	\$500.00	\$750.00
10(6)(a)	Fail to tattoo/microchip Dog w/i 10 days of declared Vicious	\$500.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,500.00
10(6)(b)	Fail to provide the Town with tattoo/microchip info w/i 10 days	\$150.00	\$300.00	\$450.00
10(7)	Fail to alter Vicious Dog	\$250.00	\$500.00	\$750.00
10(8)(a)	Fail to notify the Town if Vicious Dog sold/gifted/transferred/die	\$200.00	N/A	N/A
10(9)(a)	Vicious Dog chase a person/Animal/Dog	\$500.00	\$750.00	\$1,000.00
10(9)(b)	Vicious Dog injure a person/Animal/Dog	\$500.00	\$750.00	COURT
10(9)(c)	Vicious Dog Bite a person/Animal/Dog	\$250.00	COURT	COURT
10(9)(d)	Vicious Dog Attack a person/Animal/Dog	\$500.00	COURT	COURT
10(9)(e)	Vicious Dog kill an Animal/Dog	COURT	COURT	COURT
10(9)(f)	Vicious Dog kill a person	COURT	COURT	COURT
10(9)(g)	Vicious Dog damage/destroy public/private property	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
10(10)	Vicious Dog Running at Large	\$500.00	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00
10(11)	Fail to notify PO when Vicious Dog Running at Large	\$250.00	\$500.00	\$1,000.00
10(12)(a)	Vicious Dog off property in the supervision of person under 18	\$500.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,500.00
10(12)(b)	Vicious Dog off property not muzzled	\$500.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,500.00
10(12)(c)	Vicious Dog off property not leashed with leash < or = 1m	\$250.00	\$500.00	\$750.00
10(13)(a)	Vicious Dog on property in the supervision of person under 18	\$250.00	\$500.00	\$750.00
10(14)	Fail to abide by Vicious Dog pen construction requirements	\$250.00	\$500.00	\$1,000.00
10(15)	Fail to sign property/pen w Vicious Dog sign(s) w/i 10 days	\$250.00	\$500.00	\$1,000.00
10(16)	Fail to keep Vicious Dog sign(s) clearly visible	\$250.00	\$500.00	\$1,000.00