

TOWN OF RIMBEY

BYLAW COMMITTEE AGENDA

AGENDA FOR BYLAW COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE TOWN OF RIMBEY TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 4, 2021 AT 3:00 P.M. VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89727637003?pwd=Y0VOR2FaQzFEMEcyejBiUlc4OGlQQT09>

Meeting ID: 897 2763 7003

Passcode: 881702

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1	<b>Call to Order &amp; Record of Attendance</b>	
2.	<b>Agenda Approval and Additions</b> .....	1
3.	<b>Minutes</b>	2-5
3.1	Minutes of April 6, 2021 Bylaw Committee Meeting.....	
4.	<b>New and Unfinished Business</b>	
4.1	961/20 Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw.....	6-17
	Correspondence letters from residents in response to 961/20 Bylaw.....	18-58
	Responsible Pet Ownership RPO Bylaw 2021.....	59-61
5.	<b>Adjournment</b>	



REQUEST FOR DECISION

<b>Bylaw Committee Agenda Item</b>	3.1	
<b>Bylaw Committee Meeting Date</b>	May 4, 2021	
<b>Subject</b>	Minutes of April 6, 2021 Bylaw Committee Meeting	
<b>For Public Agenda</b>	Public Information	
<b>Attachments</b>	Minutes of April 6, 2021 Bylaw Committee Meeting	
<b>Prepared By:</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Bonnie Rybak</i> _____ <span style="float: right;"><u>April 29, 2021</u></span>  Bonnie Rybak <span style="float: right;">Date</span>  Recording Secretary</p>	
<b>Endorsed By:</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Gayle Rondeel</i> _____ <span style="float: right;"><u>April 29, 2021</u></span>  Gayle Rondeel <span style="float: right;">Date</span>  Chairperson</p>	

TOWN OF RIMBEY

BYLAW COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES FOR BYLAW COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE TOWN OF RIMBEY HELD ON TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 2021 AT 3:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATION BUILDING LOCATED AT 4938-50 AVENUE IN RIMBEY, ALBERTA.

- 1 Call to Order Chairperson Rondeel called the Bylaw Committee Meeting to order at 3:00 pm with the following in attendance:

Chairperson Gayle Rondeel  
Councillor Lana Curle  
Deputy Chair Janet Carlson  
Committee Member Connor Ibbotson  
Chief Administrative Officer - Lori Hillis  
Recording Secretary – Bonnie Rybak

Public  
0

member of the public

2. Adoption of Agenda

2.1 April 6, 2021 Agenda

Motion 2021BC019

Moved by Committee Member Connor Ibbotson to accept the agenda for the April 6, 2021 Bylaw Committee Meeting as presented.

In Favor

Chairperson Gayle Rondeel  
Councillor Lana Curle  
Deputy Chairperson Janet Carlson  
Committee Member Connor Ibbotson

Opposed

CARRIED

3. Minutes

3.1 Minutes of March 2, 2021 Bylaw Committee Meeting

Motion 2021BC020

Moved by Councillor Lana Curle to accept the Minutes of the March 2, 2021 Bylaw Committee Meeting, as presented.

In Favor

Chairperson Gayle Rondeel  
Councillor Lana Curle  
Deputy Chairperson Janet Carlson  
Committee Member Connor Ibbotson

Opposed

CARRIED

4. New and Unfinished Business

4.1 Tax Incentive Related Bylaw and Policies

Motion 2021BC021

Moved by Councillor Lana Curle to bring Demolition Policy No. 6605 back to Council recommending change to residential only.

In Favor

Chairperson Gayle Rondeel  
Councillor Lana Curle  
Deputy Chairperson Janet Carlson  
Committee Member Connor Ibbotson

Opposed

CARRIED

Motion 2021BC022

Moved by Committee member Janet Carlson to bring amended Policy No. 6601 Business Development Incentive Grant Program as follows:

Add paragraph 5 in Policy 6605 to Section 5.2.2 in Policy No. 6601 (except for the last section that says unless there is a dev permit in place for a new residential, commercial or industrial building);  
Remove Section # 3.3;  
Remove Section #10.1.1; and  
Remove all line items after \$249,900 in Schedule "A".

In Favor

Chairperson Gayle Rondeel  
Councillor Lana Curle  
Deputy Chairperson Janet Carlson  
Committee Member Connor Ibbotson

Opposed

CARRIED

Motion 2021BC023

Moved by Committee Member Connor Ibbotson to bring Policy No. 6602 Development Contributions back to Council with recommended change to remove Section #3.8.

In Favor

Chairperson Gayle Rondeel  
Councillor Lana Curle  
Deputy Chairperson Janet Carlson  
Committee Member Connor Ibbotson

Opposed

CARRIED

Motion 2021BC024

Moved by Councillor Lana Curle to accept Policy 6603 as presented.

In Favor

Chairperson Gayle Rondeel  
Councillor Lana Curle  
Deputy Chairperson Janet Carlson  
Committee Member Connor Ibbotson

Opposed

CARRIED

5. Adjournment 5.1 Adjournment

Motion 2021BC025

Moved by Councillor Lana Curle to adjourn the Bylaw Committee Meeting at 4:21 pm.

In Favor

Chairperson Gayle Rondeel  
Councillor Lana Curle  
Deputy Chairperson Janet Carlson  
Committee Member Connor Ibbotson

Opposed

CARRIED

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CHAIRPERSON COUNCILLOR Rondeel

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CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER Lori Hillis



REQUEST FOR DECISION

<b>Bylaw Committee Agenda Item</b>	4.1
<b>Bylaw Committee Meeting Date</b>	May 4, 2021
<b>Subject</b>	961/20 Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw
<b>For Public Agenda</b>	Public Information
<b>Information</b>	After reviewing the correspondence letter from the residents, the Bylaw Committee is reviewing the 961/20 Responsible Pet Bylaw to revise the bylaw.
<b>Attachments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 961/20 Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw</li> <li>• Correspondence letters from residents in response to 961/20 Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw.</li> <li>• Responsible Pet Bylaw RPO Bylaw 2021</li> </ul>
<b>Prepared By:</b>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Bonnie Rybak</u> <span style="float: right;"><u>April 29, 2021</u></span></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Bonnie Rybak <span style="float: right;">Date</span></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Recording Secretary</p>	
<b>Endorsed By:</b>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Gayle Rondeel</u> <span style="float: right;"><u>April 29, 2021</u></span></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Gayle Rondeel <span style="float: right;">Date</span></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chairperson</p>	

A BYLAW OF THE TOWN OF RIMBEY, IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA TO PROVIDE FOR  
THE REGULATIONS FOR THE CONTROL OF DOGS AND CATS IN THE TOWN.

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**WHEREAS** A Council of a Municipality may, pursuant to the Municipal Government Act, Chapter M-26, R.S.A. 2000, pass bylaws for the purpose of regulating and controlling domestic animals and activities in relation to them and to provide for the imposition of a fine and or imprisonment due to contravention of said bylaw; and

**WHEREAS** The Council of the Town of Rimbey deems it necessary and expedient to pass a bylaw for the purpose of regulating and controlling dogs and cats within the corporate boundaries of the Town of Rimbey;

NOW THEREFORE, THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF RIMBEY, DULY ASSEMBLED, ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

PART ONE- TITLE

1. The Bylaw shall be cited as the “Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw”.

PART TWO- DEFINITIONS

2. In this bylaw, unless the context otherwise requires, the word, term or expressions:
- a) “Altered” means neutered or spayed.
  - b) “Animal” means dog or cat, aggressive dog or dangerous dog
  - c) “Animal Control Officer” means a person or firm engaged by the Town to administer and/or enforce the provisions of the bylaw.
  - d) “Aggressive Dog” means any dog that:
    - i. has been designated an aggressive dog by an Animal Control Officer.
  - e) “Cat” means either a male or female animal of the feline family.
  - f) “Cat License” means the numbered tag issued by the Town of Rimbey on an annual basis.
  - g) “Dangerous Dog” means:
    - i. A dog which has been made the subject of an order under the Dangerous Dog Act.
  - h) “Dog” means either a male or female animal of the canine family.
  - i) “Dog License” means the numbered tag issued by the Town of Rimbey on an annual basis.
  - j) “Exotic Animals” means an animal not indigenous to Canada and not commonly kept as a household pet in Canada.
  - k) “Former Owner” means the person at the time of impoundment who was the Owner of an Animal which has been subsequently sold or destroyed.
  - l) “Justice” has the meaning as defined in the Provincial Offences and Procedure Act, R.S.A 2000, c. P-34 and amendments thereto.
  - m) “Kennel” means any place, owned by a person, group of persons or corporation engaged in the business of breeding, buying, selling, or boarding more than three dogs and/or three cats.
  - n) “Leash” means a restraint that is less than two meters in length and made of material capable of restraining an animal on which it is being used.
  - o) “Livestock” includes but is not limited to:
    - i. a horse, mule, ass, swine, emu, ostrich, camel, alpaca, sheep, or goat.
    - ii. domestically reared or kept deer, reindeer, moose, elk or bison.

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- iii. fur bearing animals including fox, coyote, wolf, weasels, or mink.
  - iv. animals of the bovine species.
  - v. animals of the avian species excluding chickens.
  - vi. Bees.
  - vii. all other animals normally kept for agriculture purposes.
  - p) "Major Injury" means any physical injury to a domestic animal or person, caused by an animal that results in major bruising large puncture, scratch or tearing of the skin, bleeding, or any other injury that is not life threatening, disfiguring, or debilitating.
  - q) "Microchip" means a tiny transponder, about the size of a grain of rice, that can be implanted in your pet's skin by a veterinarian for a good back-up option for pet identification.
  - r) "Minor Injury" means any physical injury to a domestic animal or person, caused by an animal that results in minor bruising, small puncture, scratch or tearing of the skin, bleeding, or any other injury that is not life threatening, disfiguring, or debilitating.
  - s) "Municipal Ticket" means a municipal ticket issued on behalf of the Town for a violation under this bylaw.
  - t) "Muzzle" means a device of sufficient strength placed over an animals mouth to prevent it from biting.
  - u) "Officer" includes an Animal Control Officer, a bylaw enforcement officer, a Peace Officer, a Special Constable and a Member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.
  - v) "Owner" includes any person, partnership, association or corporation:
    - i. owning, possessing, having charge of, or control over any animal.
    - ii. harboring any animal.
    - iii. suffering or permitting any animal to remain about his or her house or premises.
    - iv. any person to whom a License has been issued under this bylaw.
- For the purpose of this Bylaw, an animal can have more than one Owner at the same time, any, or all, who may be charged with offences under this Bylaw.
- w) "Park or Parkland" means all recreational land areas owned or controlled by the town, lying within the Town boundaries, and whether improved or in whole or in part, or in its natural state: and includes all buildings or other improvements situated on these land areas.
  - x) "Running at Large" shall mean any animal off the premises of the owner and not on a leash held by a person able to control the animal.
  - y) "Tattoo" means a permanent means of identification with a series of letters and numbers.
  - z) "Threatening Behavior" means behavior that creates a reasonable apprehension of a threat of harm and may include growling, lunging, snarling, charging, or chasing.
  - aa) "Unaltered" means not neutered or spayed.

#### PART THREE- RESPONSIBILITY OF THE OWNER

- 3.1 No more than three (3) dogs over 4 months old shall be kept or harbored at one time on land or premise occupied by their owners unless approval to operate a kennel is received by way of a Development Permit from the Town of Rimbey. Kennels will not be permitted in residential areas.
- 3.2 No more than three (3) cats over 4 months old shall be kept or harbored at one time on land or premise occupied by their owners.



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- 3.3 Puppy's may be kept up to a maximum of four (4) months.
- 3.4 Dog runs may be constructed on private lots in lieu of fencing the total property. All regulations of this by-law shall apply.
- 3.5 A female dog in heat shall be confined and housed on the property of the owner or person having control over the dog in such a manner as to prevent male dogs from accessing the female during the whole period that the dog is in heat.
- 3.6 If an animal defecates on any public or private property other than the property of its owner, the owner shall cause such defecation to be removed immediately. The owner shall be responsible for carrying the necessary apparatus to remove the offending substance.
- 3.7 If an animal defecates on its owners property to the extent that an excessive smell results, the owner shall immediately remove the defecation upon receipt of notice from an Officer, or Health Authority having jurisdiction.
- 3.8 The owner of a dog or aggressive dog is guilty of an offence if such dog barks or howls so as to disturb a person.
- 3.9
  - a) no owner shall permit his animal to damage public or private property.
  - b) when public or private property is damaged by an animal, its owner shall be deemed to have breached the requirements of subsection (a) and is subject to the fines outlined in Schedule "A".
- 3.10 When an aggressive dog is on the premises of its owner, it shall be kept confined indoors under the effective control of a person sixteen years (16) or older, or confined in a secured enclosed and locked pen, or other structure constructed and secured in such a fashion as to prevent the escape of the aggressive dog, and to prevent the entry of person unauthorized by the owner.
- 3.11 When an aggressive dog is off the premises of the owner, it shall be securely muzzled and shall be either harnessed or leashed securely and under the direct control of a person sixteen years (16) or older to effectively prevent it from threatening or harassing any person. This requirement shall not apply when the aggressive dog is confined in a pen meeting the requirements of 3.11 above.

**PART FOUR- LICENSING PROVISIONS AND OFFENCES**

- 4.1 Every person, who owns, keeps or harbors an animal, which is four (4) months of age, or older must obtain a license for each animal from the Town of Rimbey yearly. Furthermore, any person who obtains an animal during any point of the calendar year shall within 30 days of obtaining the animal obtain a license from the Town of Rimbey. Also, any person who moves into the Town of Rimbey at any point during the calendar year with an animal shall within 30 days apply for a license from the Town of Rimbey.
- 4.2 Animal licenses must be renewed each year that ownership continues. Renewal of animal licenses are due and payable to the Town of Rimbey on the first day of January in each year and shall be for the period of January 1st to December 31st, each year.
- 4.3 At the time of purchase of a license, the owner shall record with the Town, their name, mailing address, and physical address if different from mailing address. A description of the animal, including sex, breed, age, along with microchip or tattoo number, or other information pertaining to the animal as requested by the Town.
- 4.4 Upon payment of the current yearly licenses fee, the Town or its designate shall issue a license and a tag with a number and year on it to the owner. Every owner shall provide their animal with a collar to which the license tag shall be attached to at all times, which shall be worn by the animal or aggressive dog for which it is issued at all times.

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- 4.5 Every person who fails to purchase a license, for any animal or aggressive dog they own, on or before the 31st day of January in any year, shall be guilty of an offence and subject to the penalties provided for in this Bylaw.
- 4.6 The license fee for each year or any part thereof for each dog shall be as outlined in the current Fees for Services Bylaw.
- 4.7 If a tag is lost or destroyed, the owner shall apply for a replacement, which shall be issued by the Town of Rimbey upon presentation by owner of a receipt showing payment of the license fee for the current year and upon payment of 50% of the original fee.
- 4.8 A tag is not transferable from one animal to another or one aggressive dog to another and no refund will be made for any issued tag.
- 4.9 No refund shall be made on any paid animal license fee because of death, sale of animal, or upon the owner leaving the Town of Rimbey prior to the expiry date of the license.

**PART FIVE- ANIMAL CONTROL PROVISIONS**

- 5.1 The owner of an animal is guilty of an offence if the animal:
  - a) is running at large.
  - b) destroys or damages any public or private property.
- 5.2 The owner of a cat is guilty of an offence if the cat defecates or sprays on property other than the owner's property, or the cat stalks birds.
- 5.3 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 three(3) dogs over the age of four months on any land which contains or is permitted under the Land Use Bylaw to contain, a dwelling unit.
- 5.4 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 three(3) cats over the age of four months on any land which contains or is permitted under the Land Use Bylaw to contain, a dwelling unit.
- 5.5 Sections 5.3 or 5.4 does not apply to the premises lawfully used for the care and treatment of animals operated by a licensed veterinarian or a person in possession of a development permit to operate a kennel or cattery as authorized by the Town's current Land Use Bylaw.
- 5.6 The owner of an animal is guilty of an offence if he or she allows the defecation of an animal to accumulate on private property to such an extent that is it likely to annoy people or constitute a nuisance due to odor or unsightliness.
- 5.7 A person is guilty of an offence if such person springs or otherwise tampers with or damages a live trap in which animals are being trapped, or have been trapped, so as to allow any animal to escape from the trap.
- 5.8 Any owner of an animal in the Town for a period of 30 days in a calendar year is required to have a current license for the Town unless the owner is visiting and the animal is licensed in another municipality.
- 5.9 A person is guilty of an offence if he or she exercises an animal while he or she is driving a motor vehicle.
- 5.10 The owner of an animal is guilty of an offence if he or she fails to ensure the animal wears a collar and tag or is microchipped or tattooed, when the animal is off the owner's premises.
- 5.11 The owner of a dog is guilty of an offence if such dog is in an area where signs prohibit the presence of dogs.
- 5.12 No person shall keep or cause to be kept:
  - a) any exotic animal.
  - b) venomous snake, reptile, insect or spider
  - c) any wild animal.

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- d) any livestock on any property unless the property is designated as an Agriculture District as provided under the Town Land Use Bylaw and has been approved for such by the Development Officer.

**PART SIX- THREATEN, ATTACK, OR BIT ANIMAL PROVISION**

- 6.1 The owner of an animal is guilty of an offence if the animal:
- a) exhibits threatening behavior towards a person or other domestic animal;
  - b) bites, attacks or causes minor injury to a domestic animal.
  - c) bites, attacks or causes minor injury to a person.
  - d) bites, attacks or causes major injury to a domestic animal.
  - e) bites, attacks or causes major injury or death to a person.
  - f) causes death to a domestic animal.
- 6.2 Section 6.1 applies to the conduct of an animal whether on or off the property of the owner.

**PART SEVEN- ADDITIONAL PENALTIES**

- 7.1 A Justice, after convicting an owner of dog of an offence under this Bylaw, may, in addition to the fine specified under this Bylaw, order one or more of the following:
- a) the dog be designated as a dangerous dog.
  - b) the dog be humanely euthanized.
  - c) the owner be prohibited from owning any dog for a specified period of time.

**PART EIGHT- INTERFERENCE WITH AN OFFICER**

- 8.1 Any person, whether or not he or she is the owner of an animal which is being or has been pursued and or captured, is guilty of an offence if he or she:
- a) interferes with, or attempts to obstruct, an Officer who is attempting to capture, or who has captured, any animal.
  - b) unlocks or unlatches or otherwise opens the vehicle in which animals captured for impoundment have been placed, so as to allow or attempt to allow any animal to escape there from.
  - c) removes, or attempts to remove, any animal from the possession of an Officer.
  - d) refuses to provide identification (name, address, and date of birth) and proof thereof to an Officer upon request.
  - e) provides false or misleading information to an Officer.

**PART 9 - CONDITIONS AND PROCEDURES TO RENT CAT TRAPS**

- 9.1 A resident of the Town of Rimbey who finds a cat on its property may report a complaint to the Contractor and request a cat trap from the Contractor.
- 9.2 The person with the complaint (Complainant) can attend at the office of the Contractor during normal business hours and request a cat trap. In order to obtain a cat trap, the Complainant must sign the form and agreement provided by the Contractor, and the Contractor will then provide a cat trap to the Complainant. The Contractor is responsible to have the Complainant sign a cat trap agreement stating that they will treat the cat humanely.
- 9.3 The Complainant will be required to pay a \$100.00 deposit to the Contractor. This deposit will be returned to the Complainant at such time as the trap is returned and is found to be in the same condition it was at the time it was

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- obtained from the Contractor. If the trap is damaged or stolen the deposit is forfeited to the Contractor and it shall be the responsibility of the Complainant to pay the balance of the cost of the trap to be replaced.
- 9.4 It will be the responsibility of the Complainant to check the trap hourly, or as approved by the Contractor and, if an animal is caught, the Complainant must make arrangements to have the animal picked up or delivered to the Contractor within 24 hours following the trapping. During the week the Contractor will arrange the scheduling of their officers patrols in such a manner to reduce the length of time a cat is kept in a trap to a minimum. Traps are not to be set on weekends or when outside temperatures are constantly below zero (0) degrees. Traps shall be set in a shaded area of the property, away from the sun.
- 9.5 The Contractor may enter the property of the Complainant (but not a dwelling house) to ascertain if a cat trap has been properly placed or set and if a cat has been trapped.
- 9.6 The Complainant shall not leave a trap set on his property unattended when absent from the property for any period of time more than 3 hours, except as approved by the Contractor.
- 9.7 When the Contractor takes possession of a trapped cat, the Contractor will try to locate an identifying tag, tattoo or microchip on the cat and if found will make reasonable efforts to contact the owner of the cat in order to report that it has been impounded by the Contractor.
- 9.8 If the cat owner attends the Contractor's office to claim his or her cat that was trapped on another person's property, an offence ticket for the cat running at large may be issued in accordance with the Bylaw.
- 9.9 If a Complainant is disabled and therefore unable to pick up the cat trap, the Contractor will deliver the trap to the Complainants property, and pick up the trap 72 hours later. No fee shall be charged to the Complainant.
- 9.10 Any person renting a cat trap or the Animal Control Officer shall be responsible for treating any animal caught as humanely as possible.
- 9.11 Any person who abuses, teases or pokes an animal in a cat trap or is causing pain, suffering, or injury to any animal may be charged with an offence under section 446 of the Criminal Code of Canada.
- 9.12 Any person seeing a cat in a trap being abused is encouraged to telephone and report the abuse to the Contractor, at which time the Contractor will, if warranted during investigation, attend at the premises where the alleged abuse has taken place and remove the cat and the trap forthwith.

#### PART TEN-IMPOUNDING ANIMALS

- 10.1 Any Officer or any designated Contractor with the Town may seize and impound:
- any animal running at large.
  - any animal found on a park or playground where animals are prohibited or where the park or parkland area contains a playground apparatus and/or a sand rubber or other materials utilizes as a play area.
- 10.2 Upon receiving an animal for impound, an Animal Control Officer, Contractor, or its staff, shall make reasonable efforts to identify and contact the owner of the animal.
- 10.3 Subject to the entry notice provisions of Municipal Government Act, R.S.A. 2000 c.M-26, an Officer may enter upon privately owned property at all times, other than a dwelling house, for the purposes of enforcing the provisions of this Bylaw
- 10.4 An Officer, including an Animal Control Officer is hereby authorized to use live traps, nets or any other similar means to effect capture of animals. The Town or its Contractor shall not be held liable for the death or injury of any animal.

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- 10.5 The Contractor shall not sell, euthanize or otherwise dispose of any impound animal until the animal is retained in the Contractors Impound facility for seventy-two(72) hours, not including the day of impounding, Sunday's or Statutory Holidays. After the expiration of the seventy-two (72) hours, if the owner has not claimed the impounded animal, the animal becomes property of the Contractor.
- 10.6 Section 10.5 may be overruled if an impounded animal is deemed to be in immediate and severe medical distress by a licensed veterinarian or other qualified animal health professional, whereas humane euthanasia is the only treatment option to end suffering.
- 10.7 The Contractor may retain an animal for a longer period if in the opinion of the Contractor the circumstances warrant the expense or they have reasonable grounds to believe that the animal is a continued danger to persons, animals or property
- 10.8 Any healthy animal may be returned to the owner during the seventy-two (72) hour period of impoundment upon payment to the Contractor the costs of impoundment and boarding (as specified between the Town and the Contractor).
- 10.9 Any person claiming an impounded animal shall present government issued photo identification to the Contractor or its staff.
- 10.10 Where an impounded animal has not been claimed by an owner within 72 hours of impoundment, the Contractor is authorized to sell, euthanize, or otherwise dispose of any impounded animal.

PART ELEVEN- FULL RIGHT AND TITLE

- 11.1 The purchaser of an animal from the Contractor 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 animal shall cease upon the purchase.

PART TWELVE MUNICIPAL TICKETS AND VIOLATION TICKETS

- 12.1 Where an Officer has reasonable grounds to believe that a person has contravened any provision of the Bylaw:
  - a) he or she may serve upon the person a Municipal Ticket allowing payment of the specified fine as set out in Schedule "A", which payment will be accepted by the Town or the Contractor on behalf of the Town in lieu of prosecution for the offence if paid within 21 days of the date of service; or
  - b) he or she may issue and serve a violation ticket 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.
- 12.2 An Officer may, but is not required to issue a Municipal Ticket before issuing a violation ticket under the Provincial Offences Procedure Act.
- 12.3 A Municipal Ticket shall be deemed to be sufficiently served if:
  - a) served personally on the owner of the animal, or left at the owners residence; or
  - b) mailed to the address of the owner of the animal.
- 12.4 Penalties for a second, third and subsequent offences will be applicable, where those offences occur within one (1) year of the first offence.



**Town of Rimbe**

Bylaw 961/20

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PART THIRTEEN – SEVERABILITY CLAUSE

13.1 Every provision of this Bylaw is independent of all other provisions and if any provision of this Bylaw is declared invalid for any reason by a court of competent jurisdiction, all other provisions of this Bylaw shall remain valid and enforceable.

PART FOURTEEN – EFFECTIVE DATE

14.1 This Bylaw shall take effect on April 1, 2021.

14.2 Bylaw 755/03 is repealed on April 1, 2021.

READ a first time this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR RICK PANKIW

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER  
LORI HILLIS

READ a second time this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR RICK PANKIW

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER  
LORI HILLIS



## Town of RimbeY

Bylaw 961/20

A BYLAW OF THE TOWN OF RIMBEY, IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA TO PROVIDE FOR  
THE REGULATIONS FOR THE CONTROL OF DOGS AND CATS IN THE TOWN.

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READ a third and final time this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

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MAYOR RICK PANKIW

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CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER  
LORI HILLIS

A BYLAW OF THE TOWN OF RIMBEY, IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA TO PROVIDE FOR THE REGULATIONS FOR THE CONTROL OF DOGS AND CATS IN THE TOWN.

<b>Schedule "A"</b>	
Fail to license (5.8)	\$200.00 first offence \$400. 00 second offence \$600.00 third and subsequent offence
Animal running at large (5.1(a))	\$100.00 first offence \$200. 00 second offence \$300.00 third and subsequent offence
Animal on a park or parkland where prohibited (5.1(b))	\$100.00 first offence \$200. 00 second offence \$300.00 third and subsequent offence
Animal destroys or damages property (5.1(c))	\$100.00 first offence \$200. 00 second offence \$300.00 third and subsequent offence
Cat sprays/defecates/stalks birds (5.2)	\$100.00 first offence \$200. 00 second offence \$300.00 third and subsequent offence
Fail to Confine an animal in heat (3.5)	\$100.00 first offence \$200. 00 second offence \$300.00 third and subsequent offence
Dog barks or howls as to disturb a person (3.8)	\$100.00 first offence \$200. 00 second offence \$300.00 third and subsequent offence
Have more than three dogs (3) (5.3)	\$100.00 first offence \$200. 00 second offence \$300.00 third and subsequent offence
Have more than three cats (3) (5.4)	\$100.00 first offence \$200. 00 second offence \$300.00 third and subsequent offence
Fail to remove defecation (3.6)	\$100.00 first offence \$200. 00 second offence \$300.00 third and subsequent offence
Allowing defecation to accumulate on property (3.7)	\$100.00 first offence \$200. 00 second offence \$300.00 third and subsequent offence
Tampering/spring/damage trap (5.7)	\$200.00 first offence \$400. 00 second offence \$600.00 third and subsequent offence
Keeping or harboring an exotic animal (5.12)	\$100.00 first offence \$200. 00 second offence \$300.00 third and subsequent offence
Failure to ensure collar and tag are worn by animal (4.4)	\$75.00 first offence \$150. 00 second offence \$300.00 third and subsequent offence
Keeping or harboring wild or exotic animals or livestock (5.12(a)(b)(c))	\$200.00 first offence \$400. 00 second offence \$600.00 third and subsequent offence



A BYLAW OF THE TOWN OF RIMBEY, IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA TO PROVIDE FOR THE REGULATIONS FOR THE CONTROL OF DOGS AND CATS IN THE TOWN.

Aggressive dog not muzzled, in control and on a leash (3.12)	\$200.00 first offence \$400. 00 second offence \$600.00 third and subsequent offence
Animal exhibits threatening behavior to person/animal (6.1(a))	\$200.00 first offence \$400. 00 second offence \$600.00 third and subsequent offence
Animal bites, attacks or causes minor injury to an animal (6.1(b))	\$200.00 first offence \$400. 00 second offence \$800.00 third and subsequent offence
Animal bites, attacks or causes major injury to an animal (6.1(d))	\$500.00 first offence \$1,000. 00 second offence COURT third and subsequent offence
Animal bites, attacks or causes minor injury to a person (6.1(c))	\$500.00 first offence \$1,000. 00 second offence COURT third and subsequent offence
Animal bites, attacks or causes major injury or death to person (6.1(e))	COURT first offence COURT second offence COURT third and subsequent offence
Animal causes death to an animal (6.1(f))	\$500.00 first offence COURT second offence COURT third and subsequent offence
Refuse to provide identification to an officer (8.1(d))	\$500.00 first offence \$1,000. 00 second offence COURT third and subsequent offence
Interfere with an officer (8.1(a))	\$500.00 first offence \$1,000. 00 second offence \$1,500.00 third and subsequent offence
Unlock/unlatch a vehicle where an animal is confined (8.1(b))	\$500.00 first offence \$1,000. 00 second offence \$1,500.00 third and subsequent offence
Provide false or misleading information to an officer (8.1(e))	\$500.00 first offence \$1,000. 00 second offence \$1,500.00 third and subsequent offence
Remove or attempt to remove animal from an officer (8.1(c))	\$500.00 first offence \$1,000. 00 second offence \$1,500.00 third and subsequent offence

## Bonnie Rybak

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**From:** Eileen Banks [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 29, 2021 1:57 PM  
**To:** Kathy  
**Cc:** Gayle Rondeel; Lana Curle  
**Subject:** FW: Bylaw 961/20 Responsible Pet Ownership

Greetings Mayor and Council,

I am taking this opportunity to respond to the above noted bylaw. My comments are not an exhaustive review but do highlight the major points of contention I have at this time. I have elected a point format in order to maintain clarity on individual issues within the bylaw, followed by general observations and concerns.

- This new bylaw institutes a **limit on the number of cats or dogs** owned by a resident of Rimbey. What we now have is a situation whereby a resident immediately becomes in violation of a town bylaw as soon as it comes in to force. This sets up a scenario where a resident is potentially liable for up to \$600 in fines in a given 12 month period. Unless a grandfather clause is inserted in to the bylaw this leaves pet owners with the option of either paying the fines annually or surrendering their pets. I would like to think that this is not the will of council to see a situation like this unfold and steps will be taken to rectify this portion of the bylaw.
- With the addition of cat **licensing** under this bylaw there needs to actually be an overdue recognition of responsible pet owners. **Spaying and neutering** is the one method that is guaranteed to manage the population of domestic animals. For decades many municipal jurisdictions have rewarded responsible pet owners for this by reducing the licensing fees for spayed and neutered pets. It's well past time that Rimbey get on board with this approach.
- It's worth noting that the current Dog Control Bylaw allows for 96 hours to elapse before providing for alternatives such as rehoming or euthanizing. The proposed bylaw has reduced that to **72 hours**. With the exception of an animal in medical distress, the 96 hour period should be maintained. If Rimbey had a kennel in close proximity then 72 hours might suffice, but it does not. Owners need to be given every opportunity to find a lost animal. Even under the most ideal circumstances, escapes can and do happen.

- The portion of the bylaw on **exotic animals** needs to be fleshed out. There are a lot of homes that contain an animal I might consider exotic but are commonplace and acceptable pets. So distinctions need to be made.
- The bylaw makes references to **“aggressive” dogs and “barking” dogs**. The Animal Control Officer is given the authority in this bylaw to declare a dog aggressive. There is no context provided as to when this might occur and without context it’s troublesome. The vast majority of dogs will not react well to a stranger approaching or entering their space. In that context an Animal Control Officer walking down a back alley might all of a sudden discover a plethora of so called “aggressive” dogs in the back yards he is passing. As for the barking issue the same applies. Rimbey has a noise bylaw and that should suffice. Dogs bark.

It’s what they do. Dog owners shouldn’t have to live in fear of incurring a fine if their dog happens to bark when the ACO is in the neighborhood.

I will now move on to my **general observations and concerns surrounding this bylaw and it’s implementation**. The stated purpose of the bylaw is regulating and controlling dogs and cats in the town of Rimbey. As it stands that is a totally reasonable and common sense ideal. I know quite a few people that are quite perturbed at continually having to find ways to protect their flower and vegetable gardens from cats using them as litter boxes. There is also the issue of cats spraying in their yards leaving a distinctive unpleasant odour. I am quite sure that there have been longstanding communications with the Mayor and Council to “do something”. So you are doing something. I hate to be the bearer of bad news but when it comes to cats, what you’re doing won’t make much of a difference to those residents who have been making their voices heard.

The issue has been, and will remain to be **“community cats”**, or **ferals** as some refer to them. These cats have no owners so no responsible pet ownership bylaw will impact the problem. The problem will continue and in fact worsen as these cats continue to reproduce. The only potential remedy I can find anywhere in the proposed bylaw is the opportunity for a resident to drive to Red Deer, put down a \$100 deposit on a trap, and try to trap a cat. It’s rare that two cats will make their way in to a single trap. Along the way the resident then has to hope that no one steals or damages the trap which will result in the forfeiture of their deposit plus a potential additional cost toward replacing the trap. I am not foreseeing a rush of town residents eager to sign up for this venture. So the problem remains and the bylaw impact is negligible. I have no idea what, if any, discussions have taken place between the ACO and Council on this issue but I have not seen any indication that there has been meaningful dialogue on this. To say this is disappointing is an understatement. No discussion on managing cats in a municipality can be considered meaningful without exploring strategies to address community cats in a humane, respectful, and compassionate way. There are programs who can assist the

town in these efforts. The Canadian Animal Task Force is one. This program which is headquartered in Calgary was formerly known as the Alberta Spay Neuter Task Force. I would invite you to look through their extensive website and see the range of assistance that could be provided. Not just to our community cats but assistance for those residents who might be challenged by the affordability of spaying and neutering for their pets, cats and dogs. They would even happily **consult on bylaw development**. This is the meat and potatoes of animal control. Compassionate management of populations and healthier animals.

<https://cataskforce.org/>

In closing I want to address one final point of concern. I have heard from a number of people that the content of this bylaw has been provided by the current Animal Control contractor. I have also noted that the current budget for animal control services is \$18,000 per year and that figure is going to be tentatively increased to \$28,000 per year for 2021. According to town budget documents this is a result of the proposed Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw. There are two problems with this. The first is the **optics** of it. Specifically along the lines of conflict of interest. Secondly, what activities will necessitate an additional \$10,000 a year in animal control costs? I can find nothing in town minutes to explain this and it needs to be explained how an updated bylaw will incur such a drastic increase in costs. For that matter, how is the current expenditure helping to address the issues? I think about the ways that even a portion of the current budget allotment could be used to manage animal control related issues that do not involve just enforcement. This is an opportunity for the Town of Rimbey to not just add another bylaw to the books, but to make a real meaningful difference to the four legged in this town and the two legged that care about them. If Covid has taught us anything this past year, it's the value of companion animals. So let's do this Rimbey.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments and please know I would be happy to assist with any efforts going forward.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eileen Banks  
Rimbey



TOWN

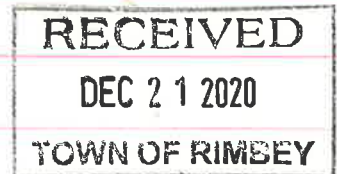
PET BYLAW DEC 20/20

ALL CATS AND DOGS SHOULD BE  
LICENSED AND NOT RUN AT LARGE

I LIVE IN THE SOUTH END OF  
TOWN AND OF MY LOT (A STONE  
THROW) WE HAVE 5 DOGS & CATS  
AND MANY MORE JUST IN THE  
BLOCK NOT TO COUNT THE STRAYS  
THAT RUN ALL NIGHT AND SPRAY  
(AT LEAST A DIFFERENT ONES)

I DO NOT WANT TO CAUSE  
HARD FEELINGS AMONG NEIGHBOORS THIS  
IS A TOWN BYLAW THAT NEEDS TO BE  
ENFORCED BY THE TOWN

(NAME WITHHELD)



Jan. 29, 2020

Re: Cat Bylaw

Dear MR. Mayor + Council,

This is to inform you that as a Rimbey Tax payer I totally OPPOSE a cat bylaw. I believe that this bylaw would cost the Town a lot of money and open up a lot of legal issues.

If you implement a Cat Bylaw I would hope that the Municipality conduct a Public Awareness program to help cat owners understand the issues and responsibilities.

It is a known fact that more cats are "not picked up" by owners therefore a higher budget will be needed for cats than dogs when they are contained.

It is illegal to put an animal in distress therefore traps need to be checked frequently. Food, water and shelter MUST BE PROVIDED for a trapped cat.

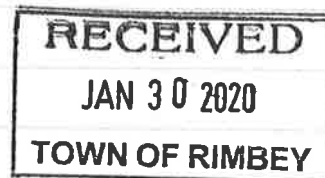
Cats are unlike dogs. You do not walk a cat!

Thanks for considering this letter.

Sincerely

U. Coulthard

Veronica Coulthard



January 29, 2020

Town of Rimbey/ Mayor / Councillors

Re : Cat Bylaw

My daughters and I sat down last night and discussed our thoughts about cats, dogs, poop, animals & if running freely, or not should be allowed.

We were all in agreement, cats are not like dogs, we do not put our cat on a leash, we do let her run freely, she generally stays close to home, but if she shits in the neighbours yard... yes.. I would not know necessarily and don't have a lot of control of that. Saying that if my neighbours told me, hey... your cat is shitting in my yard... I would absolutely go clean it up. No problems at all.. please actually DO ASK ME.

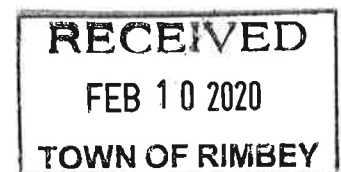
The neighbours do have cats. I chase the ones I hate away and am nice to the ones I like. We tolerate them and overall I have no ill will to any of them. What I had a huge problem with is this – if people own cats and they run freely, then BE RESPONSIBLE AND get your animal fixed. They breed so fast and that is why there is a cat problem.

My biggest complaint about dogs, as now I am a dog owner.. is the POOP literally everywhere – people should be fined if they are not cleaning up their dogs shit when in public places , sidewalks, and alleys.

In general we are against the cat bylaw, but we would like a bylaw that states as a person who lives in town, if you own a cat , you must get it fixed if you want it be outside. Period.

People who have animals, need to be responsible . They should be made to fix their animals if roaming freely, and clean up after them.

*Mandy Swanson*



## Bonnie Rybak

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**From:** Alesha Melanson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 7, 2021 12:36 PM  
**To:** Kathy  
**Subject:** Pet Bylaw

Good afternoon,

As per always Rimbey has gone so over board with this new Pet ownership bylaw it's ridiculous. This town only listen to the elderly unhappy people in this town. It's is no wonder people don't want to move to this town or area and we can't sell a house because no one wants to live in Rimbey. Young people usually want to get out or buy acreages instead of live in Rimbey and this bylaw makes it understandable. You've ruined this town. If I did not have a stable job believe me I would have left Rimbey many years ago like all the rest of my friends and co workers. We at the ambulance cannot keep staff because people can't stand Rimbey. No one would ever move here and all the staff travel from other towns and cities and this kind of bylaw makes it even less appealing. Shame on Council. Just because you are not animal people doesn't mean you should ruin the lives of people who use support animals for PTSD or anxiety or other illnesses. Again Shame on you for being so ridiculous and stupid with this bylaw. You are money hungry and will take money any ways you can from people. I do not have animals currently they live with my mother due to my hours at work but I have compassion which apparently Rimbey council does not have. I can't wait till the next election actually maybe I can because hopefully I won't live in this sad sad little town. I've lived her 16yrs and I wish I hadn't for 15 of these years. You make me want to list my house today. Our animals put my children because I cannot have kids can you put a bylaw on how many kids people can have also can you put a bylaw on the kids who are out late destroying business robbing places breaking things in the street they do way more damage then any cats or dogs do. Your children in this town are out of control but you don't do anything about that do you let's punish innocent animals. I hope you keep pushing out new young people out of town so the town collapses which your doing a very good job at already!!!

Aleshia Melanson

Sent from my iPhone



## Bonnie Rybak

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**From:** Megan Hansen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 8, 2021 1:01 PM  
**To:** Kathy  
**Subject:** Animal bylaw

Hello, now is not the time to be passing a new animal bylaw. No one can go in and have a meeting and state their concerns. The cat trap part of this bylaw is not ok, many people are going to abuse this!! Having to register all of your animals once a year is also a bit much. People are struggling as it is let alone have to pay this extra bill once a year. I believe the rules are a bit much! People should also be able to get a free warning if their cat gets out and some one traps it. A cat is not going to go attack a human like a free running dog could. The fine amounts are also too much. I feel like you guys should hold off on this until a later date. With everything going on we don't need to add the extra stress to people.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

**08/01/2021**

**Dear Mayor, Rimbey Town Council,**

**I am certain you have been inundated with numerous calls of protest and likely some nasty responses to the By-law issue that has come to light. It is my wish to be civil and respectful of all of you and it is with that in mind that I respectfully request that you table this expansive and expensive by-law until we are all out from under the oppression and financial hardships of Covid lockdown. For many of us pet owners, they bring us emotional comfort as they are fully integrated family members.**

**I understand the licence aspect for cats and that is reasonable. Some other stuff in the proposal is seemingly over the top.**

**Could we look at this from a different perspective and look towards a forum after the lockdown is lifted, engaging in civil and maybe passionate discourse.**

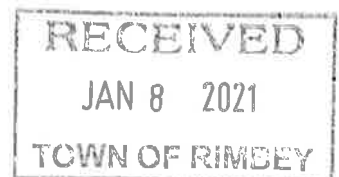
**I seek compassionate and wise exchanges. We all need each other and Rimbey has been so awesome under the current health crisis. Lets continue with the same good attitude of compromise and consideration.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Brenda Webb**

**P.S. You guys are doing a great job through all this and you do not deserve hateful or hurtful rhetoric.**

**JMO**



**Lori Hillis**

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**From:** Bonnie Rybak  
**Sent:** Friday, January 08, 2021 3:59 PM  
**To:** Lori Hillis  
**Subject:** FW: Pet bylaw

Bonnie Rybak  
Executive Assistant  
Town of Rimbey  
(403) 843-2113

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Jenni Whatmore [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 8, 2021 3:17 PM  
**To:** Kathy  
**Subject:** Pet bylaw

Good afternoon,

I have read the imposed pet bylaws that are going for a third read. I believe these bylaws are too extreme, yes people should be responsible for their pets but the animals should also be able to protect their property and act as animals without there being consequences.

I fully believe this should be tabled or brought forward to a town meeting that individuals can attend & voice their concerns.

Thank you.

## Bonnie Rybak

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**From:** Lori Hillis  
**Sent:** Monday, January 11, 2021 9:03 AM  
**To:** Bonnie Rybak  
**Subject:** FW:

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**From:** Rick Pankiw  
**Sent:** Monday, January 11, 2021 8:59 AM  
**To:** Lori Hillis  
**Subject:** FW:

**From:** Melanie Crehan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** January 10, 2021 4:28 PM  
**To:** Rick Pankiw  
**Subject:**

Pet responsibility bylaw

On behalf of myself and also Serenity Pet Shelter Society, I would like to respectfully request this by-law be tabled until such time as public meetings can be held to discuss same.

There are several considerations needing discussion and input. Also the timing must be considered as we are in pandemic which has caused severe stress and isolation, as is widely documented. The imposition of this bill, without public input could be viewed as inappropriate.

There is no doubt Rimbey needs a pet by-law. However, there needs to be input based on research, kindness rather than simply control. Thankyou for your work to date.

I look forward to your reply,

Kindest regards,

*Melanie Crehan*

## Bonnie Rybak

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**From:** Veronica Coulthard [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 10, 2021 10:17 AM  
**To:** Kathy  
**Subject:** OPPOSED to proposed Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw

Dear Mr. Mayor and Councillors,

First off I would like to say that I am **TOTALLY OPPOSED** To this Bylaw. Secondly I feel that some Councillors may have had a hidden agenda to push this through quickly! This Bylaw has been a contentious issue for years. As I have moved forward in opposing this Bylaw, I realize that the Residents of Rimbey are not even aware of this proposal. A little blurb was put in the Town of Rimbey water bill (which a lot of Residents **DO NOT RECEIVE**) and to date I have not seen a notice in the Town of Rimbey newspaper. The third reading and possible passing of this Bylaw could have quite conceivably been the end of January. **SHAME ON YOU COUNCIL** for **NOT PROPERLY INFORMING** Rimbey Residents of this Bylaw.

First off this Bylaw is **INHUMANE!!** To give certain People **THE POWER** to trap Cats sets up illegal cat trapping and Cat abuse. The Bylaw leaves open interpretation as to when the traps should be checked and contradicts itself. It states a temperature for the cold but what about when it is hot out whether the trap is put in the shade or not. All Cats have an incredibly strong survival instinct intact. They are crepuscular making them most alert at dusk and dawn. They will have a sudden burst of energy and these instincts are gearing them up to hunt even if they don't have to go out to hunt. Because of these natural animal instincts, how does one keep a cat on a leash or in a house when they are used to living their life free. In my opinion keeping a cat on a chain or locked up is **INHUMANE**. There have been complaints about cats shitting in flower beds.....well that is life! There are lots of annoying things in this world so chase the cat out, put down a product to keep the cat away. Cats **DO** keep down the rodent problem so nature looks after itself.

Secondly, there is a huge difference between trapping a Feral/Stray Cat and a House Cat/Family Pet. Families have cats that will continue to go outside, because of their **NATURAL INSTINCTS.....THEY CANNOT BE KEPT INDOORS**. These cats will be picked up and Families will not be able to pay the hefty fines this Bylaw imposes. Kids will be sad and upset to loose their house hold pet. These **HOUSE** cats will flood the kennels and will have to be killed as there will be an influx of cats.

Thirdly, it appears the Bylaw was **THROWN TOGETHER QUICKLY** with pieces from other Bylaws. There are spelling errors and contradicts itself.

**HOW** do you prove "A CAT STALKING A BIRD???" This is ludicrous!!!

9.4 and 9.6 are contradictory.

Wording "As approved by the Contractor " leaves it wide open for a He said She said situation. I would be worried about a huge lawsuit. Therefore....**BEFORE ANY BYLAW IS PASSED IT SHOULD BE REVIEWED BY THE TOWN LAWYER**. Better pay the Legal fees now rather than a **HUGE LAWSUIT** later.

There should be some accountability on the Cat Trapper. They should have to keep a log and possibly proof like a timed photo that the trap was checked **HOURLY**, they left their property when and for how long. After all there is **LIFE** that may be suffering in that trap.

In closing I ask that Council hold off on this third reading until **COVID** is **OVER** and we can have a Town meeting to discuss.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME IN THIS MATTER!**

Sincerely,  
Veronica ( Roni) Coulthard

## Bonnie Rybak

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**From:** Lori Hillis  
**Sent:** Monday, January 11, 2021 9:02 AM  
**To:** Bonnie Rybak  
**Subject:** FW: Pet bylaw

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**From:** Rick Pankiw  
**Sent:** Monday, January 11, 2021 8:59 AM  
**To:** Lori Hillis  
**Subject:** FW: Pet bylaw

**From:** Lori Lewis [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** January 8, 2021 4:45 PM  
**To:** Rick Pankiw  
**Subject:** Pet bylaw

Mayor Pankiw;

I am writing to ask that the third reading and passing in to effect the new pet bylaw be postponed until people feel that they can meet and discuss the proposed bylaw as it is very severe in some areas. I believe that more town resident input is needed.

Thank you  
Lori Lewis

## Bonnie Rybak

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**From:** Lori Hillis  
**Sent:** Monday, January 11, 2021 9:02 AM  
**To:** Bonnie Rybak  
**Subject:** FW: Cat Bylaw

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**From:** Irene Anderson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 10, 2021 6:40 PM  
**To:** Rick Pankiw; Bill Coulthard; Lana Curle; Gayle Rondeel; Lori Hillis  
**Subject:** Cat Bylaw

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I am concerned about a cat bylaw being passed in Rimbeey.

Cats have a very necessary role in any community. I totally understand that they use cultivated areas for bathrooms but it is a small price to pay when the good they do naturally. They control rodents especially mice.

Parkland Manor, located in the middle of town, is soon to be demolished. Since the building has been empty for nearly 3 years it would be wise to assume that it has numerous mice living in this old heated building. Mice may be small but they are mighty and will spread throughout the entire town in a very short time. With a cat bylaw the cats would need to be house bound or controlled to the owners yard. We need them controlling mice being our loving friends.

There is a large number of feral cats that live around the auction mart, they are doing a great job of rodent control there also.

The mice will be your main support system while the voting public will consider your actions on this issue on next election.

Thank you for your excellent job as mayor and councillors.

IRENE ANDERSON

January 8, 2021

Rimbey Mayor and Town Councillors  
PO Box 350  
Rimbey AB T0C 2J0

RE: Proposed Bylaw 961/20

Dear Mayor and Members of Council,

At this time, I would like to appeal to you to table the proposed Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw. I strongly feel that it is important that an opportunity to have a public forum regarding this bylaw. Waiting until after the COVID restrictions are lifted is the fair and right thing to do in the democratic process. Putting it through at this time, I feel, would be irresponsible.

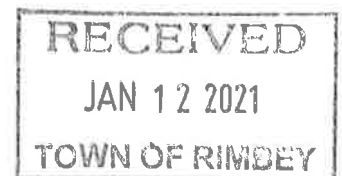
My personal feelings are that this bylaw goes too far in many areas and there are many parts of it that need to be reviewed and revised. It is inhumane to allow some of the things outlined in this bylaw. Allowing anyone the permission to trap and possibly torture an animal unfathomable. I live in a neighborhood with many, many cats and dogs. We have had issues with neighbors doing despicable things to animals, including shooting an arrow into another neighbor's cat, also trapping cats and shooting them in the trap – just to name a few of the disgusting acts. Let's not give these people the permission, never mind, help them to get away with this. I do not disagree that there are irresponsible pet owners in our community and something should be in place, but I feel that it cannot and should not be put in place as it is presented currently.

Thank you for your time and attention on this matter.

Yours respectfully,



Elizabeth "Betty" Clark





Jonah Kondro

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

January 12, 2021

Town of Rimbey  
PO Box 350  
Rimbey, AB. T0C 2J0

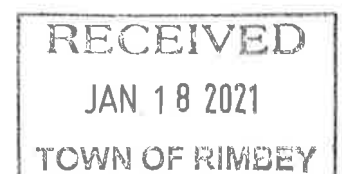
The Town of Rimbey,

I am writing to provide feedback on the 961/20 Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw. Though I presently do not reside in Rimbey, I still own and manage a couple of residential rental properties in town. I have concerns for section 4.4 as well as section 5.12b.

Section 5.12b says, "No person shall keep or cause to be kept: venomous snake, reptile, insect or spider." Venomous snakes should not find a home in Rimbey; moreover, are the animals of concern because they are considered exotic animals? Many franchise and commercial pet stores sell non-venomousness reptiles, insects, and spiders. Personally, I don't think of those animals as "pet-worthy" companions, but some people do. I feel this section of the Bylaw will discriminate against people who desire to raise and keep non-venomous reptiles, insects, and spiders as pets. This section of the Bylaw requires clear language and additional attention.

Section 4.4 says, "... the license tag shall be attached to [a collar] at all times, which shall be worn by the animal or aggressive dog for which it is issued at all times." I agree that an animal should always wear their license tag while not crated. Collars and license tags may cause injury to an animal while it is crated; the tags may catch in the caging and may cause an injury and/or suffocate the animal. Section 4.4's requirements may cause harm to an animal. I suggest this section of the Bylaw be modified so that licensed animals are not required to wear their license tags while crated on their owner's property.

Additionally, how should situations when owner's leave animals in unoccupied vehicles be addressed, particularly during hot, summer days? Are these situations regulated through other Bylaws



and/or Legislation? Or is there space in the Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw to address this malpractice?

I thank the Town for their effort towards a Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw.

Regards,



Jonah Kondro

## Bonnie Rybak

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**From:** Lori Tkacik [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 19, 2021 12:03 PM  
**To:** Kathy  
**Subject:** 961 Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw

To whom it may concern:

As a taxpayer and pet owner I **do not** support the new 961/20 Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw. I feel we need a pet bylaw but this is to the extreme. I don't feel the issues with pets needs these extreme actions. Maybe our town should be looking into a dog park so that the animals can get exercise and tire themselves out. I believe you would find a lot less of them breaking out or barking if they tired and relaxed. Our bylaw officer could be utilized in many other areas of our fine town.  
Regards,

Lori Tkacik

 Please consider the environment before printing this email

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## Bonnie Rybak

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**From:** Kelly McLean <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 18, 2021 7:31 PM  
**To:** Kathy  
**Subject:** 961/20 Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw Feedback

To Whom It May Concern,

I wanted to express my sincerest gratitude for the proposed changes outlined in the above mentioned bylaw.

I think that a lot of residents would agree that stricter rules surrounding cats at large within town limits are long overdue and I was very happy to read the changes to this bylaw in that regard. So happy in fact, that I will be quick to turn around from this email and tell my friends about it, as many of them have suffered with cats defecating in their garden beds long enough.

One thing that I am even happier to read about is the higher fines for disruptive and irresponsible pet ownership behaviours. I personally have a neighbour whose dogs bark seemingly constantly – this, despite the involvement of animal control. That being said, I believe these fines are a much greater deterrent to inconsiderate behaviour such as allowing a pair of dogs to bark nonstop.

Last but not least, I am happy to see that the bylaw will now allow for **responsible** pet owners to have up to three dogs on their property in town, provided they clean up after them accordingly. I know of a few people off hand that were never aware that the limit had previously been two dogs and these people lived in fear that one of their pets, whom they care for responsibly and do not disturb their neighbors, would be taken away from them.

All this to say **THANK YOU** so very much for making these changes. I think they're a move in the right direction all around so I wanted to be sure to give town council a round of applause for their work on this matter.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Kelly McLean  
A Responsible Pet Owner and Proud Rimbey Resident

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

**Bonnie Rybak**

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**From:** Dijie Ratzlaff [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 24, 2021 6:54 PM  
**To:** Kathy  
**Subject:** Response to 961/20 Pet Bylaw

Dear Rimbey Town Council,

I fully support the proposed Responsible Pet Bylaw, and urge you to implement it. As a cat owner who has always had my cats spayed or neutered, the small yearly cost of licensing my present cat is a price I would willingly pay to ensure other cat owners also accept responsibility for their cats. My husband and I take our indoor cat outside only on a leash. Although our cat doesn't spray or defecate in our yard, or anyone else's, I can't say the same for roaming neighbourhood cats, who regularly do both in our yard.

In section 5.2, I am particularly pleased with the clause, "the owner of a cat is guilty of an offense...if the cat stalks birds". That addition speaks to your intelligent recognition of the environmental impact of free-roaming cats on threatened bird life. In my household, we take that impact so seriously, that during bird-migratory season, and also when fledgling robins are feeding from the ground and unable to fly, we keep our cat completely indoors unless we are *actively* supervising her while outside on her leash.

I thank you in advance, Town Council Members, for taking appropriate responsibility in an area that most cat owners, left to their own devices, are simply unwilling to take. Your proposed bylaw is of utmost importance.

Sincerely and with gratitude,

Dijie Ratzlaff

[REDACTED]  
Rimbey

## Bonnie Rybak

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**From:** Jennifer Norstrom [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 24, 2021 10:10 PM  
**To:** Kathy; Rick Pankiw; Bill Coulthard; paul payson; Lana Curle; Gayle Rondeel; Lori Hillis  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Bylaw 961/20 Regulations for the Control of Dogs and Cats

Dear Town of Rimbey Council, Mayor and Staff,

I have read the new bylaw 961/20 respecting the Regulations for the Control of Dogs and Cats in the Town of Rimbey and ask that be tabled until amendments be made. I am in agreeance that the Town of Rimbey requires a bylaw that better governs the ownership of animals within the Town but believe it requires the following amendments:

1. Cat traps should not be used by anyone in Rimbey and this should be removed from the bylaw. I have read Part 9 of the bylaw and there are a lot of conditions and procedures but they do not take into account that not all people follow the rules and there are plenty of people that hate cats in the community. I feel that it would be extremely risky to the humane treatment of animals in our community to allow the public to obtain and operate a cat trap. If everyone in our community followed the rules, we wouldn't need most bylaws nor someone to enforce them.

I also have concerns over a bylaw officer operating cat traps unless they are going to be able to check the cat traps every hour and ensure they are all removed from the Town once the officer is done for the day. There is a major risk to the animal if it is too cold or too hot, these are very small animals and it takes very little time for the animal to become distressed.

*Please note that I understand that it is ultimately up to our family to ensure our cat never gets out of the house. If we did this, we would never have to worry about it ending up in a cat trap. However, this is not realistic and at some point my cat will get out of the house as that is all she wants in the summer and loves to be outside mousing. I have no problem as a law abiding citizen of Rimbey adhering to the bylaw and purchasing a license for my cat. I will put a collar and tag on her but it still terrifies me that she could get out and be at risk of getting trapped by anybody in the community that has obtained a cat trap and may or may not follow the rules.*

2. I believe it should be more than 72 hours of impoundment before the animal may be euthanized or sold. I feel this should be at least one week.

*I am not sure if this is correct but I have heard that Klassic Kennels may be the contractor that the Town of Rimbey is considering to enforce the bylaw. If this be true, I have had to personally intervene on behalf of my niece to get her cat from Klassic Kennels. My niece was 12 at the time and she and the rest of her family were away from their home in Blackfalds for a week on a summer vacation. While they were gone, their neighbor was looking after her cat and feeding and watering it when it got out. Perhaps the cat didn't have a tag on it, I do not know but my niece became aware that her cat was at Klassic Kennels when it came up for adoption on Facebook. My niece responded to the Facebook ad to please not give it away and called me immediately to go get the cat. If she had not seen that ad she may have never found her cat. I proceeded to pay \$340.00 to get the cat from Klassic Kennels and my niece got her cat back. I am aware that there is a lot that could have been prevented in this situation but 72 hours is not long enough and please remember that that cat may be a nuisance to some but to my niece that cat was everything and was her best friend.*

3. It would be good to also see the following statements added to the bylaw:

- Excluding pests, no person outside of a Bylaw Officer shall utilize bait, live traps, nets, catch poles, snappy snares, or similar device and/or any other humane equipment or technique to assist in the seizure or to capture an animal at large.
- No owner of an animal shall fail to provide their animal with sufficient food, water, shelter and protection from atmospheric elements, including, but not limited to sun, snow, ice, rain, hail, wind and cold or hot temperatures.
- No owner of an animal shall fail to provide care and medical attention to their animal, when care and medical attention is required.
- No owner of an animal shall leave an animal unattended in or on a vehicle, trailer or similar object without providing the animal proper protection from the atmospheric elements such as the sun, snow, ice, rain, hail, wind, cold or hot temperatures.
- No owner of an animal in the opinion of a Bylaw Officer, shall leave an animal in a vehicle, trailer, or similar object for an unreasonable length of time.
- No owner of an animal inside an unattended vehicle, whether on public or private property, unless there is adequate ventilation or temperature control provided for the health and well-being of the animal.
- No owner of an animal operating a vehicle shall fail to ensure that an animal in or on the vehicle is restricted or restrained, or otherwise secured in a fashion so as to prevent potential injury to the animal or escape from the vehicle.
- No owner of an animal, having parked a vehicle shall fail to ensure that the animal in or on the vehicle is restricted or restrained, or otherwise contained in a fashion so as to prevent the animal from biting or attacking persons or animals in the vicinity of the vehicle.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to hearing whether the Town will be tabling this Bylaw as is or whether you will be making amendments to it.

Kind regards,  
Jennifer Norstrom

████████████████████  
Rimbey, AB  
████████████████████

## Bonnie Rybak

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**From:** Darlene Scholze [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 25, 2021 5:01 PM  
**To:** Kathy  
**Subject:** Responsible pet ownership Bylaw

We are residents of Rimbey and are concerned about the responsibility of pet owners.

We do not have any pets our selves but are constantly cleaning up after other people's animals. In the summer evenings we will have as many as 5 cats in our yard at a time digging in our fresh soil. Even now as the weather has been mild we have piles of cat feces along the side of our house.

With the pandemic we decided to grow a few vegetables between our shrubs. We had to remove the old soil and add new as the smell was terrible from cat feces. It was a constant battle as we even had cats going in our greenhouse.

The feral cat population needs to be addressed as we saw 6 week old kittens in our alley late in the fall. We have a fence around our property and our white fence is black most of the time from the cats coming and going. We have tried chilli powder, moth balls, orange peelings to deter them and nothing helps.

It is time for people to be responsible for their pets and get a litter box and or carry bags to pick up their dogs feces.

Allen and Darlene Scholze

Sent from my iPad



## Bonnie Rybak

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**From:** Jennifer cull [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 17, 2021 7:40 AM  
**To:** Kathy  
**Subject:** Pet Ownership Bylaw

As a taxpayer I am NOT in favor of the Bylaw and would like to know where all the money is going to come from to enforce this Bylaw?

## 9/6/20 Responsible Pet Owners.

Your by law as it stands seems to be adequate  
but my concern is: Please Enforce the By law!!  
Don't have neighbor(s) & neighbor(s) frustrated over  
pet annoyances when your by laws states the  
consequences of the offending pet owner. Complaints  
to Town office regarding annoyances seem to fall  
on deaf ears with no results.

### PART Two - Definitions

2(c) states. what an "Animal Control Officer" duties are  
as well as 2(u) and those Officers mentioned as well.

### PART Three:

3.2 No more than (3) cats per household. If the individual  
wants more - Consider an acreage -

\*\* For controlling these felines - Keeping them out of  
flower beds; gardens; shrubbery & lawns - is  
something else - but there are CATTRAPS - they work!  
Keeping the number to 3 should help although

I know of individuals with many more - is 13 @ one  
household & another with 5 or 6!! And licensing them -  
could be a different story as well - The need for a by-law  
roaming free cats is essential, limited number of cats  
per household will help. For the gardeners who don't  
have cats - I don't feel its fair to be purchasing  
"chicken wire" to cover the soil to keep cats out -

3.8 The owner of a dog or aggressive is guilty of an  
offence if such dog barks or howls so as to disturb  
a person -

This latter sections 3.8 - should the neighbor(s) and

paged Con'd 3.8

Neighborhood have to put up with this rehomed dog

@ [REDACTED]

forever barking! This started early spring through to winter 2021. It is unacceptable & annoying!!

Complaints voiced at Town office but no apparent results.

Since mid December I have documented dates & times

of this dog. I phoned Klasic Kernels early January 2021

but the situation remains the same. Again no results.

This dog is left outside for periods of time and in all kinds of weather - barking. The owner could be home

or gone. This is neglect - see do obedient & discipline

training. Maybe a suggestion of fines to the owner

could be a deterrent as well. Please enforce it.

Your by-law 961/20 is clear but it needs to

be enforced. The Town has the power to do it.

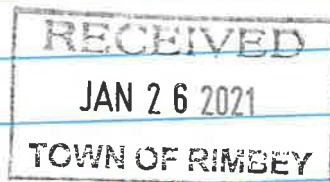
Make it happen.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Sharon Lowress

January 25 - 2021.



Jan. 15, 2021

Dear Mayor Pankiw and Council,

*My name is Roslin Kaprowski, I am 11 years old and I have pets. I am being homeschooled this year because of Covid19. In my free time I like to read and play with my cats and dog.*

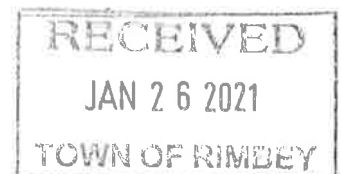
*While I was studying government I learned about the town's Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw. I can understand why you decided to use this law but I don't agree with some of it such as only being allowed to have 3 cats because no one will want old cats. I know someone who has 4 cats, that are old cats from the shelter. Animals in the shelter don't like it because they don't get attention or have enough space. If this person with 4 cats had to get rid of one it probably won't have another home.*

*Also I have a big dog who spends most of her time in the backyard. When she is inside she is quiet. She can't be inside all the time because she is a big dog who can't be cooped up and both my parents work. The only reason my dog barks when she's outside is because of people or cars in front of our house. Why can't dogs make noise in the middle of the day?*

*Finally, i don't understand why the Bylaw doesn't allow exotic animals. If they're kept in a terrarium or a cage why are they a problem?*

*I don't want to lose my pets.*

*Sincerely,  
Roslin Kaprowski*



## Bonnie Rybak

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**From:** bob beck [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 19, 2021 11:23 AM  
**To:** Kathy  
**Subject:** Comment 961/20 Bylaw

I support the passage of the above Bylaw and urge your action to do so. I have been aware of its presence for over a year. Upon reading it a second time just prior to this letter, I confirm my finding of it to be reasonable and responsible. Cats are a logical and long overdue inclusion.

I find it hard to believe that there are persons that are not aware of the negative impacts, for others and neighbors, of free ranging, non natural predators who also have negative property impacts.

It is sad that, in this time, when so many are touting the power of personal responsibility, that anyone should have issue with this bylaw. Only those irresponsible pet owners are impacted. I am tired of having to deal with their inaction.

Thank you for taking this initiative.

Sincerely,  
Bob Beck

[REDACTED]  
Rimbey

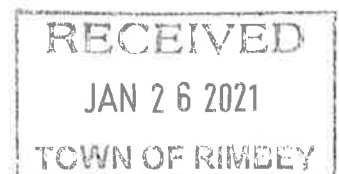
January 26, 2021

Dear Mayor Pankiw and Town Council,

This is a letter of concern, regarding your proposed *“Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw”*, both from a personal stance and on the base of principals. We are currently in an unprecedented time of economic hardship; because of this I am very concerned by the council’s proposal to impose more potential financial hardship in the way of fines for all pet owners.

I am an average working mother, with a normal household complete with pets. I have a large breed dog (as do all of my neighbors). Both my husband and I work; foreseeing the problems for a large dog being inside all day we ensured that we selected a property with a large backyard and installed high fences and locked gates. The proposed bylaw removes our right to utilize our backyard for our pet. **3.8 “The owner of a dog...is guilty of an offence if such dog barks or howls so as to disturb a person”**; our dog only barks if there are persons or vehicles directly in front of our residence (we live on a relatively quiet street). As the bylaw stands, I have to trust the discretion and goodwill of our neighbors. The common purpose of dog ownership, as I have always understood (having been country raised) is to be alerted to persons approaching your property. We already have a noise bylaw in place in town (unless I am misinformed) which would prevent unreasonable times for a dog to be barking. With this bylaw in place I must either face potential fines (which I currently would not have the means to pay) or surrender my children’s dog.

Our dog is a senior dog, which presents another problem. If surrendered the chance of re-adoption for her is very slim. A problem many pet owners will face, not only with this section of the bylaw, but with regards to the limit on cats per household as well. I know a person residing in town with four senior cats, all indoor cats and of no consequence to other residents of town. What is this person to do?



**"2. j) "Exotic Animals" means an animal not indigenous to Canada...".** Exotic pets are kept in terrariums, cages or tanks. These manner of pets should be of no regard to persons outside of the household of ownership. **"5.12 No person shall keep or cause to be kept a) any exotic animal"**. The council recognizes this will include many species of fish, frogs, lizards and other harmless, pets, often of children? I fail to understand the purpose of this portion of the bylaw entirely.

There are more deeply troubling sections in the bylaw that certainly don't have animal welfare in mind, and have no (positive) bearing on the citizens of Rimbej. **"10.10 Where an impounded animal has not been claimed by an owner within 72 hours of impoundment, the Contractor is authorized to sell, EUTHANIZE, OR OTHERWISE DISPOSE OF any impounded animal."** I cannot adequately express the moral failure that I see in this statement.

I have further concerns regarding who drafted this bylaw (who **"the Contractor"** refers to) and who stands to gain from the proposed fees connected with it. I am challenged in trying to see the goal of this bylaw, besides trying to prevent the ownership of animals in town. I deeply and sincerely hope that the council revisits and revises their stance on this.

Sincerely

Jessica Skjonsberg- A concerned citizen

## Bonnie Rybak

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**From:** shauna shields [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 27, 2021 10:13 PM  
**To:** Kathy  
**Subject:** 961/20 Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw

To Whom it May Concern;

I am writing this letter in regards to the third reading of the 961/20 Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw.

As a citizen of Rimbey, I am very upset about many parts of this bylaw. Including dogs and cats being included together within the same bylaw. It is like comparing apples to oranges. Cats and dogs are very different, they have different instincts and are very different to control. It makes me very sad because I feel helpless in knowing that I've been a responsible pet owner in many ways but will probably not be able to keep our 2 family cats.

Dogs are, in most cases, noisier and more aggressive than cats. I agree that both can be nuisances, but in different ways, so they should be dealt with differently when deciding on rules and bylaws. The difference is that dogs can be kept in yards that are fenced properly...cats can't. Sure, if you get your cat as a kitten and train it to stay inside (which is very hard to do) then it wouldn't be a problem. The problem is that many of us have cats that are older, and it would be impossible to keep them inside. If a cat has to be tied up outside, because it is their instinct to jump and climb, it is going to yowl, cry, and make noise. Dogs do not have to be tied up when outside in a fenced yard. Dogs rarely lose their collars. When cats are outside, unless tied up, it is also very difficult to keep collars on them. Believe me, I have tried. (I am currently researching a collar made in the US that warns birds, and breaks away if the cat gets caught in a tree...which is how my cat has lost several collars WITH bells...because I absolutely hate it when cats kill birds). But then again, how many times can a person pay for a new tag when the collar is hung up in a tree, or quite frankly, lost? How many of our young families or senior citizens can afford that expense just to have a pet? Then, add the fine on top of it when they want their companions back. Many of these cats are very loved and have provided companionship and support through these hard times of isolation. Spring is on the horizon, we are all looking forward to it, but as I've talked to people, there are also many of us dreading it because we know we will probably lose our beloved cat or it will cost us a fortune to keep them. There are going to be a whole lot of sad children and seniors in our town, all to make a small group of people easier to deal with for the town. I also have a couple of unknown cats that are a problem in my yard and fighting with my cats, but I just chase them away or spray them with a hose. You can't chase away 3 barking and snarling dogs in the yard next door. Or 3 big dogs that get into my front yard and crap on it and chase my cats that are in my



front yard...yet you can easily chase away a cat. Because cats aren't vicious or intimidating. That is why the rules should be different.

I feel that this bylaw is not supported by the majority of the town, and it will add an additional burden to many homes that are currently suffering the effects of Covid 19...financially as well as emotionally. This decision couldn't come at a worse time in many peoples' lives. So many people are just going to leave their cat to be put down, and just get another one instead of paying the steep fines. I think that there are few specific big voices complaining constantly about cats, I definitely know one of them, and the town feels they need to placate these individuals. There are many inexpensive things that they could do themselves to repel cats from their properties. I do not feel like our town is overrun with cats, I really don't. Where is the money coming from to enforce these new rules? Tax increases? Is the town hiring a new, or another, bylaw officer to overlook this bylaw, one that is available for complaints and to check the cat traps? Is there going to be animal control available the same day that there are problems? Again, an added expense for everyone. I, for one, would rather have our roads repaired. Families have had cats forever, as well as dogs.

How will our cats' safety be ensured once caught in a trap? I honestly do not believe that there will be anyone enforcing compliance of ensuring the cat traps do not contain lures, are regularly checked, and that abuse doesn't happen to the trapped cats. I have a neighbor in town that has already said that if he traps a cat, it will be going straight out of town for his 3 very large hunting dogs to chase. There is also a young man at the school that I work who told his classmates that his dad told him that as soon as he catches a cat, he's taking it out of town for target practise. My son is in his class, and it is not going over well. We might as well kiss our sweet, quiet, 12 year old vaccinated and spayed cat goodbye once this bylaw comes into effect because I'm sure there will be outstanding citizens placing salmon or other tasty treats in these cages to lure her in. I really do not know how the town will enforce rules such as 9.4, 9.6, 9.7, 9.10, or 9.11 or prove when the complainant breaks them, it is almost laughable if the reality wasn't so serious. It will be a full time job, along with handing out tickets. It has been hard enough to get a bylaw officer or animal control to do anything about the barking dogs in the neighborhood (even when they are INSIDE the house it is constant. Friends and family ask me how I can stand it, but apparently if they are inside the house, there is nothing that can be done). My cats, or dog, don't make noise that bothers the neighbors.

These are some of the reasons that I am very hesitant and am dreading the new bylaw. I do realize that there are some terrible pet owners in our town, I just find that this is pretty brutal to those of us who aren't. I hope that you will consider some of my points and will put a hold on this bylaw until the citizens that are affected can attend an actual meeting to voice our concerns. This is just a really bad time for the town to decide and put into our town's laws something so drastic that affects so many families and people...and their pets. In all fairness, a

poll or referendum, and then review, should be done before this bylaw is passed instead of going ahead based on a small percentage of our town's population's opinions and grievances.

Thank you for your time,

Shauna Shields

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

## Bonnie Rybak

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**From:** Lynn K [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 28, 2021 11:19 AM  
**To:** Kathy  
**Subject:** cat dog bylaw

To Rimbey Council,

We would like to ABSOLUTELY AGREE about having a BYLAW that also extends to cats, but this bylaw won't necessarily help the people that are bothered by cats (and dogs) that run loose. First to say we like dogs and cats... BUT, we do not appreciate people letting their cats run loose. We had dirt under our deck, and of course cats used it as a litter box. We went to the expense of covering it with gravel, the cats still used it as a litter box. We finally put chicken wire on top of that (another expense) and now at least they are not using it as a litter box.... BUT they are still pissing on our basement windows, then if that's not bad enough, they come on our deck and piss on our deck and our BBQ... WE DON'T APPRECIATE IT and we don't appreciate having to clean it up. We choose not to have a pet in town because we don't want to deal with picking up after a dog or cat of our own, but we still end up having to clean up after everyone that lets their pet run loose, or just doesn't bother to clean up after them. If this bylaw passes, put some teeth into it so people will take responsibility. If the cats are just given back, they will likely just say thank you and carry on as before. Give them a hefty fine before they get their pet back, or something, to keep them from bothering the residents of Rimbey that have to put up with their irresponsibility.

Laverne and Lynn Kellert

## Bonnie Rybak

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**From:** David Pfau [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 28, 2021 3:34 PM  
**To:** Kathy  
**Subject:** re by law 961/20 Regulations for the control of dogs and cats

Dear Town Council,

I am happy to see this bylaw being created. I trust it will encourage pet owners to care for their pets in a responsible fashion that is respectful of all Rimbey residents.

I had hoped that the by law would require that all pets be spade or neutered. Possibly that can be encouraged by having a lesser licensing fee for spade or neutered pets. A Vet certificate and proper identification of pet being licensed would have to be provided to be eligible for the discount.

I understand that all the details of this by law apply to both cats and dogs equally(except where specifically stated) including aggressive or dangerous cats. Is that correct? In my opinion; both cats and dogs must be confined to their owners' property unless out on a leash with their pet owner. Dogs or cats could be confined in an outdoor kennel or run.

I am of the opinion that three pets maximum should be the limit per owner premise. That could be 3 cats or 3 dogs or a mix of cat(s) and dog(s). I was very glad to see that exotic pets etc are not permitted at 5.12.

Details.....

**At Definition 2. b)** I am of the opinion that a cat, as well as a dog can be aggressive or dangerous.

n) I understand that the recoiling leashes, which are in common use, are often more that 2 meters long when fully extended.

v) iii "suffering" is redundant and the intent is more clear without the word.

**At Part Three** 3.3 Plural of puppy is correctly spelled .....puppies.

3.5 I think a female dog *or* CAT in heat should be confined.

**At Part Five** 5.2 I don't see how you can reasonably regulate to prevent cats from stalking birds except to keep cats confined to indoors all of the time. You could add stalk amphibians also.

5.10 A bit confusing as it seems to contradict 4.4 where the tag is said to be mandatory not an option between other items of identification. 5.10 seems to be saying that if the animal is microchipped it does not have to wear a tag.

**At Part Ten** 10.8 I submit that all costs *and fines* must be paid if full prior to returning an impounded animal.

When and if this by law is enacted, I expect there may be many pet owners who will not be in agreement. I think the town should anticipate this and provide some means of an amnesty to receive unwanted pets to be impounded and disposed of or dispensed of in a humane manner. This will prevent a number of animals potentially being "dropped off" in the countryside.

I trust that the town will ensure that the "Contractors Impound Facility" is a safe, clean, sufficiently large facility that is securely contained and where animals are humanely treated. Is that something the town should provide? Maybe this is a service Rimbey can provide to other surrounding communities. Its not a nice job, but somebody has got to do it.

Thank you for moving forward with this by law.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Pfau

  
Rimbey

## Bonnie Rybak

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**From:** Joanne Reaugh [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 28, 2021 10:59 PM  
**To:** Kathy  
**Subject:** 961/20 Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw

Mayor Pankiw and Town Council,

I feel that there are elements of the proposed pet bylaw that are unacceptable.

I do believe that the majority of pet owners are responsible, their pets are very important to them and they would not intentionally put their pets in a dangerous position.

I have been walking my dogs in and around the Town of Rimbey for 40 years, and I can think of only five occasions when we were accosted by a stray dog, and only one occasion where I felt that the dog was dangerous and reported it.

I have been fortunate to have Lion's Park 2 in my neighborhood. I have once seen a cat in the park, and stray dogs on only a couple of occasions. Families come to the park with their children on bikes and in strollers and are often accompanied by the family dog. We have spent many hours playing ball and frisbee in the park when it is unoccupied. I pick up after my dog if needed, and others if necessary, in addition to picking up after families, kids, teenagers who leave empties and wrappers on the ground and hospital employees who come to the park for a smoke break. I have never witnessed an incident in the park involving a pet.

Under the proposed bylaw pets would not be allowed in this park as there is playground equipment, which I believe is overkill.

While it would be great if the neighborhood cats stayed out of my flowerbeds, I would never ever trap someone's pet however the proposed bylaw seems to promote that. I can't imagine trying to change the behavior of an adult cat, or trying to train it to walk on a leash. I don't believe that the same rules can be applied to dogs and cats.

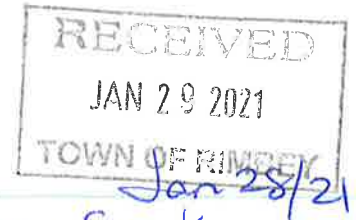
The suggestion that the bylaw officer or anyone else could come on to my property and take my pet is completely unacceptable.

During the pandemic pet ownership has increased as people are staying home and are also dealing with isolation. So too are people migrating from the cities to rural areas, and Rimbey could benefit from the addition of new families. What kind of a Town do we want to be? Hospitable, welcoming and tolerant, or the opposite?

Respectfully,

Joanne Reaugh

Denise McFarlane  
Page 1 of 3



Town of Rimbeey

Regarding bylaw 961/20 - Regulations for the Control of dogs and cats in town "Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw"

I would have to disagree with some of your proposed cat bylaws. I must specify that dogs and cats are two different domestic species, with different habits and characteristics around other people, animals and environments. Dogs are more likely to be social, easy to come when called if they become 2x) 'running at large' and can be in a fenced yard with enough room for playing or exercise. I would describe cats as more independent and have the skills to jump or climb out of their owners property with the use of claws. (Be advised that as of July 1, 2019, the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association has adopted the policy to ban and prohibit cat declawing.) This also makes cats more likely to use their natural instinct to leave the property to stalk birds (5.2) or rodents. Animals are territorial and usually stay close to home since there is food, water, shelter and a family or other pets to keep them company.

I would agree that unless an animal is too young or the owner is a breeder that my pets are either spayed or neutered. A responsible owner does this for many reasons; 1) no unwanted babies 2) deter other intact animals from coming to your property to breed or spray / defecate on your property 3) your pets will stay closer to home if not distracted 4) pets are or can become expensive if you have too many or veterinary expenses arise, unexpectantly, from injury.

Unfortunately it is harder to regulate where cats go to urinate or defecate if they are at large and unsupervised (5.6) There are some dog owners that knowingly refuse to pick up after their dogs. Many cats come back inside to use a litter box especially if ~~let~~ let outside in winter conditions. Make an area outside <sup>your house on</sup> your property.

In section 5.10 of animal control provisions, I find that it can be a safety concern of a cat wearing a collar and tag. If an unbreakable collar is used, it may become a choking hazard (strangulation) or a financial burden replacing tags and a breakaway collar. Not everyone can afford to microchip and maintain electronic records and a tattoo is likely to be performed under expensive sedation.

Since animals are independent thinkers, it is hard to guess what they will do in a fight or flight situation but most domestic animals are friendly especially towards familiar people or other animals, but being scared or territorial can change their personalities. So in part 9.11, when a cat <sup>or dog</sup> is trapped it should include 'private owned traps' as well as renters or contractors. Anyone can buy an animal trap and secretly trap and/or release them. ~~Possibility~~ Possibly even killing them. Are they or can people use 'bait' to entice an animal to enter a trap? Can you clarify that.

Impounding Animals - part 10 is a lot more of a sensitive and could be more complicated for cats if they are not identified without use of tags, microchip or being tattooed. This would be impending if a cat licensing is included in pet ownership bylaw. You can't impound if there is no cat bylaw. Only surrender privately ~~trapped~~ trapped animals.



Denise McFarlane  
Page 3/3

Many animal owners are responsible and have them for various reasons; companionship, company, mental health, service pets, to complete a family while giving the family purpose and an opportunity to care and nurture and learn responsibilities for future life. Just because a pet is not registered and licenced does not make the owner less responsible of their actions. Town bylaws enable the town of Rimbey to generate cash revenue while protecting resident property.

I recommend that the cat portion of the bylaw be removed since it is hard to monitor cat activity since they are independent and harder to control. They are territorial, and getting to know your neighbours is a better solution. Most cats will spook easily off property or there is electronic devices out there to discourage pets from entering another's property. Yes, feral cats are everywhere and can be a problem yet they do not have an owner.

Denise McFarlane - [REDACTED]  
Rimbey resident [REDACTED]

I can be contacted at the above number and Gayle Rondeel and I have had a past conversation regarding cat licencing after my cat escaped and she was a young spayed female and started to chase birds. Social media helped me get her home. She was missing for seventeen (17) days and was ~~about~~ a block away. Someone spotted her and I called the cat and she came to me. Unfortunately she has since died but she had an unbreakable collar on and choked. She also had that collar on with my number <sup>priority</sup> ~~today~~ <sup>today</sup>. I know better now!

January 26, 2021

Attention: Rimbey Mayor & Members of Town Council

Regarding 961/20 Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw

It is with disgust that we have to forward such a letter in regards to this proposed bylaw. I had thought we lived in a more civilized and logical thinking town.

This bylaw deserves public input at a town hall meeting. It is complicated, controversial and cruel. It is nothing more than despicable and disturbing that this council would try to slide this through during a Pandemic in which a public meetings could never happen.

Furthermore, the proposed outline leads to cruel and unusual treatment. You actually could be responsible for civil type wars between neighbors. Family Pets are Family Members and will be protected in the same way.

Unfortunate that your council is above all in your way of thinking and have nothing more than a total lack of respect towards those you were elected to serve. Truth be told, would like to know your reaction if you were to discover your pet dehydrated and dead in a neglected trap some 72 hours later.

This deserves public input, so do what is right and wait for Covid restrictions to be lifted. Then hold a Public Meeting!

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Sincerely,



Wendy Huff

Dave Huff

[Redacted]

# Responsible Pet Ownership (RPO) Bylaw 2021

Concerns brought up by citizens' letters to Council

\* **10.5** The Contractor shall not sell, euthanize or otherwise dispose of any impound animal until the animal the animal is retained in the Contractors impound facility for seventy-two (72) hours, not including the day of impounding, Sunday's or Statutory Holidays. After the expiration of the seventy-two (72) hours, if the owner has not claimed the impounded animal, the animal becomes the property of the Contractor. **10.10** Where an impounded animal has not been claimed by an owner within 72 hours of impoundment, the Contractor is authorized to sell, euthanize, or otherwise dispose of any impounded animal.

\* **Part Four-Licensing Provisions and offences, 4.4** Upon payment of the current yearly licenses fee, the Town or it's designate shall issue a license and a tag with a number and year on it to the owner. Every owner shall provide their animal with a collar to which the license tag shall be attached to at all times, which shall be worn by the animal for which it is issued at all times. **5.10** The owner of an animal is guilty of an offence if he or she fails to ensure the animal wears a collar and tag or is microchipped or tattooed, when the animal is off the owner's premises.

\* There is no mention in the bylaw of spayed or neutered pets

\* Several letters expressed concern over the number of cats they are allowed and would like any cats over the limit at the time the Bylaw is enacted to be Grandfathered in. **3.2** No more than three (3) cats over 4 months old shall be kept or harbored at one time on land or premise occupied by their owners. **4.1** Every person, who owns, keeps or harbors an animal which is four (4) months of age, or older must obtain a license for each animal from the Town of Rimbey yearly. Furthermore, any person who obtains an animal during any point of the calendar year shall within 30 days of obtaining the animal obtain a license from the Town of Rimbey. Also, any person who moves into the Town of Rimbey at any point during the calendar year with an animal shall within 30 days apply for a license from the Town of Rimbey.

\* The definition of "Exotic animal" is too restrictive and unclear. **5.12** No person shall keep or cause to be kept: a) any exotic animal,

\* The Bylaw does not address the feral cat population in town.

\* Several citizens are concerned about the cost of enforcing the RPO Bylaw.

\* Several citizens feel the addition of the information on cat traps needs more clarification and is very concerning, i.e., should the trap be observed by taking pictures, making a log of a trapped cat, should there be food and water in the trap, can the trap be baited, should the information on cat traps be revised because you can buy one in almost any department store. Who monitors traps that are privately owned?

\* If Animal Control has the authority to deem an animal aggressive, they need to keep updated information, such as, time date and the nature of the incident, action taken if any, follow up report. **6.1** The owner of an animal is guilty of an offence if the animal: a) exhibits threatening behavior towards a person or other domestic animal; b) bites, attacks or causes minor injury to a domestic animal. c). bites, attacks, or causes minor injury to a person. d) bites, attacks or causes severe injury to a domestic animal. e) bites, attacks or causes major injury or death to a person. f) causes death to a domestic animal.

\* The Town needs more garbage cans on main walking paths etc. so citizens don't need to carry around bags of pet poop.

\*All costs incurred by the pet owner need to be paid before the pet is returned.

\* Concern was expressed over barking dogs when the purpose of some dogs is to bark and protect the owners' property.

\* Concern was expressed about Bylaw or animal control being able to enter your property. **9.5** The Contractor may enter the property of the Complainant (but not a dwelling house) to ascertain if a cat has been properly placed set and if a cat has been trapped. **10.3** Subject to the entry notice provisions of Municipal Government Act, R.S.A. 2000 c.M-26, an Officer may enter privately owned property at all times, other than a dwelling house, for the purposes of enforcing the provisions of this Bylaw.

\* **10.5** uses the word suffering but there is no definition for suffering.

\*Excluding pests, no person outside of a Bylaw Officer shall utilize bait, live traps, nets, catch poles, snappy snares, or similar device and/or any other humane equipment or technique to assist in the seizure or to capture an animal at large.

\*No owner of an animal shall fail to provide their animal with sufficient food, water, shelter and protection from atmospheric elements, including, but not limited to sun, snow, ice, rain, hail, wind and cold or hot temperatures.

\*No owner of an animal shall fail to provide care and medical attention to their animal, when care and medical attention is required.

\*No owner of an animal shall leave an animal unattended in or on a vehicle, trailer or similar object without providing the animal proper protection from the atmospheric elements such as the sun, snow, ice, rain, hail, wind, cold or hot temperatures.

\*No owner of an animal in the opinion of a Bylaw Officer, shall leave an animal in a vehicle, trailer, or similar object for an unreasonable length of time.

\*No owner of an animal inside an unattended vehicle, whether on public or private property, unless there is adequate ventilation or temperature control provided for the health and well-being of the animal.

\*No owner of an animal operating a vehicle shall fail to ensure that an animal in or on the vehicle is restricted or restrained, or otherwise secured in a fashion so as to prevent potential injury to the animal or escape from the vehicle.

\*No owner of an animal, having parked a vehicle shall fail to ensure that the animal in or on the vehicle is restricted or restrained, or otherwise contained in a fashion so as to prevent the animal from biting or attacking persons or animals in the vicinity of the vehicle.

\* the biggest concern was to have a public meeting to discuss the bylaw.