

## **Animal Control and Dog Licensing**

**Township of Douro-Dummer** – The Township of Douro-Dummer has been reviewing its Animal Control and Dog Licensing By-laws with its partner agency, Peterborough Humane Society.

In June 2019 there were changes to the enforcement landscape when the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) was no longer designated as the police authority for animal control issues. The responsibility for enforcement of these issues is now the responsibility of the Ontario Provincial Police and local municipal law enforcement.

As a municipality, it is our role to ensure that our enforcement teams have the adequate tools and resources to ensure efficient and effective administration of our By-laws. The animal control aspects range from household pets, to exotic animals, to large animals such as farm livestock. Wildlife control remains the responsibility of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR).

Currently we have two By-laws for different types of animals (exotic/domestic). It is time that we reflect on the current environment and determine the suitability of these by-laws and whether they can be strengthened to promote better public health and safety. We continue to work with key stakeholders, such as Peterborough Humane Society and Ontario Provincial Police to ensure these By-laws are effective tools for administration and enforcement.

“We certainly don’t want a repeat of a recent incident in our Township. It’s an absolute must that our By-laws and enforcement team have the power to protect everyone from future incidents. We must all be responsible pet owners and not put our friends and neighbours in any kind of dangerous situation.” says Mayor of Douro-Dummer J. Murray Jones.

The By-law review process does take some time, but we are hopeful to bring revisions to a future Council meeting as soon as is feasible, given the ongoing COVID-19 situation.

**For more information please contact:**

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