

Adopting a cat from Animal & Bylaw Services

Impounded cats that are not claimed are available for adoption. Cats with identification are available 10 days after entering the shelter. Those without identification are available after four days.

Check our website at calgary.ca/animalservices for photos of the adoptable cats, and information on our adoption procedures. The website is updated every 15 minutes during business hours. Drop in at our facility at 2201 Portland St. S.E. to visit the cats that are available for adoption. Adoption fees include a veterinarian examination, initial vaccinations, spay/neuter surgery, a microchip, a six-month licence and a bag of cat food.

Guidelines for happy indoor cats

- Play with your cat to give him exercise and establish loving bonds.
- Provide safe cat toys, scratching posts and cat trees.
- Groom and have your cat's claws trimmed regularly.
- Provide cat grass for your cat to chew on.
- Set up a place where your cat can perch and look out a window.
- Consider the companionship of a second cat.

Cats in vehicles

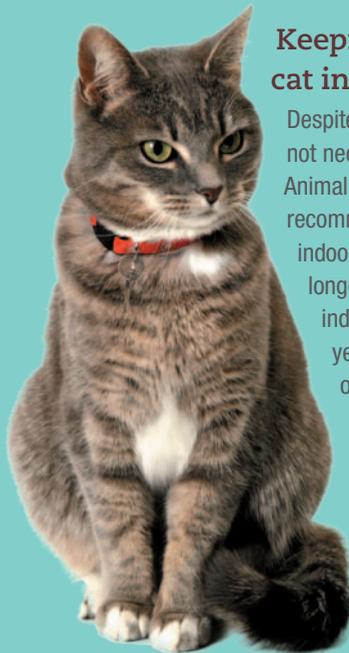
Cats should always be transported in secured kennels while in a moving vehicle.

If you leave your cat unattended in a vehicle, suitable ventilation must be provided for your pet. The bylaw states that pets must not be left unattended if the weather conditions are too hot or too cold.

Complaints

To file a complaint or concern about a cat, or to reserve a cat trap, contact Animal & Bylaw Services at 311.

For more information on cats and the Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw visit calgary.ca/animalservices or contact 311.



Keeping your cat indoors

Despite popular belief, cats do not need to go outdoors or roam. Animal & Bylaw Services strongly recommends keeping your cat indoors because indoor cats live longer, healthier lives. While indoor cats can live up to 20 years, the average life span of an outdoor cat is two to five years.

If you do want your cat to go outside, consider using a harness and light leash or constructing a cat enclosure.

2013-0367

Responsible cat ownership

calgary.ca | contact 311

The City of Calgary Animal & Bylaw Services educates citizens about responsible pet ownership to help ensure that cats, their owners and neighbours live together in safety and harmony.



Reuniting lost pets with their owners

Animal & Bylaw Services impounds lost or stray cats under the Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw 23M2006. Our goal is to return impounded pets to their owners. If owners cannot be located and pets are left unclaimed, following a waiting period these animals are put up for adoption to find a new forever family.

Lost cats

If you lose your cat, contact 311 immediately to file a lost pet report. Visit calgary.ca/animalservices to view photos of the impounded cats at the Animal Services Centre and visit us at 2201 Portland St. S.E. Continue to visit our facility, the Calgary Humane Society and check with local vet clinics. Finally, ensure your lost pet report remains on file at Animal & Bylaw Services until your cat is found.



Principles of responsible pet ownership

Animal & Bylaw Services advocates responsible pet ownership and encourages pet owners to adhere to the five principles of responsible pet ownership:

- Provide a licence and permanent identification for your pet.
- Spay or neuter your pet.
- Provide training, socialization, proper diet and medical care.
- Don't allow your pet to become a threat or nuisance.
- Procure your pet ethically and from a credible source.

Principle #1: Provide a licence and permanent identification

A licence enables Animal & Bylaw Services to reunite lost pets with their owners. The Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw 23M2006 states that all cats residing in the city of Calgary must be licensed at three months of age. The City of Calgary enforces a zero tolerance policy on all unlicensed cats. A cat must be licensed but does not have to wear his licence tag as long as he has a readable microchip or legible tattoo.

There is a reduced fee for licensing a spayed or neutered cat or a kitten less than six months of age. However, there is a fine for falsifying information to receive the reduced licence rate.

In addition to a licence, it is important that cats have permanent identification, such as a microchip or a tattoo, in case they lose or are not wearing their licence tag. The preferred method of permanent identification is a microchip because a tattoo can fade over time.

Owners must remember to update their contact information with Animal & Bylaw Services and their microchip company or tattoo provider when their contact information changes.

Principle #2: Spay or neuter your pet

Responsible cat owners ensure their cats are spayed or neutered. Not only does spay/neuter surgery prevent cat overpopulation, it also makes for healthier pets. It eliminates crying, howling, nervous pacing and frantic attempts to get out and find a mate. Neutering reduces or eliminates inappropriate spraying. Spaying eliminates female heat cycles and bloody discharge. Spay/neuter surgery also reduces or eliminates disease, infection and cancer of the reproductive system.

Principle #3: Provide training, socialization, proper diet and medical care

All cats require daily care, nutritious food, fresh water and exercise. Regular grooming, yearly checkups and a vaccination schedule recommended by a veterinarian are important responsibilities that maintain the health of your pets.

Principle #4: Don't allow your pet to become a threat or nuisance

Responsible cat owners ensure that cats do not roam freely beyond their owner's property. Under the Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw 23M2006, cats must be confined to their owner's property. Owners must be sure that their cat does not cause damage to property, such as digging in neighbouring yards, knocking over garbage cans or scattering garbage.

If a cat is being a nuisance in your yard and you know where he lives, contact Animal & Bylaw Services through 311 to register a complaint or to reserve a cat trap. When we receive a cat at the Animal Services Centre, we make every possible attempt to contact the owner. Unclaimed cats are put up for adoption.

Principle #5: Procure your cat ethically and from a credible source

Having a cat means a commitment for the lifetime of that cat. Ask yourself if this is the right time to bring a companion animal into your family. Do your research on your potential cat's physical needs and what to expect for food, care and medical costs. Be aware of the type of training, socialization and exercise that will be needed and be sure that you are able to provide all of these things for the lifetime of your cat. Once an informed decision is made, it is imperative that you procure your cat from a rescue organization or breeder that is both credible and humane.

