

The Corporation of the Municipality of Meaford

By-law Number 030 – 2014

Being a by-law to amend By-law 078-2013, a by-law to Control Dogs and Govern the Care of Animals within the Municipality of Meaford, with regard to cats.

Whereas by Section 5(3) of the *Municipal Act S.O. 2001, C.25* as amended provides that powers of every Council are to be exercised by By-law unless specifically authorized to do otherwise; and

Whereas, Section 9 of the *Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c.25* provides that Section 8 and Section 11 shall be interpreted broadly so as to confer broad authority on Municipalities to (a) enable Municipality to govern their affairs as they consider appropriate and , (b) enhance their ability to responds to municipal issues; and

Whereas, Section 11 of the *Municipal Act, R.S.O. 2001, c. 25* provided that a lower-tier municipality may pass By-laws respecting matters within the spheres of jurisdiction set out therein; and

Whereas, Section 103 of the *Municipal Act, 2001, S.O 2001, c. 25* authorizes a municipality to seize and impound an animal at large or trespassing, the sale of an impounded animal, and the establishment of a voluntary payment of penalties out of court where it is alleged that the By-law respecting animals being at large or trespassing has been contravened; and

Whereas, there is a desire to establish a program to aid in the control of feral cats in the Municipality of Meaford; and

Whereas, the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Meaford deems it expedient and necessary to amend By-law 078-2013 with respect to cats;

The Council of The Corporation of the Municipality of Meaford enacts as follows:

That By-law 078-2013, a by-law to Control Dogs and Govern the Care of Animals within the Municipality of Meaford is hereby amended to address cats:

1. Insert the following definitions under section 1 DEFINITIONS:
 - 1.2.1 **"Cat Control Officer"** means the Municipal Law Enforcement Officer and their designate who have been duly appointed as a Cat Control Officer by Council.
 - 1.4.1 **"Feral Cat"** means any cat that is not socialized who, in general, receive little human contact or care and lives outdoors or is unconfined at all times.
2. Delete the definition of "cat" under Section 1. DEFINITIONS and replace with the following definition:
 - 1.1 **"Cat"** means a household and/or domesticated cat (*Felis silvestris catus*).
3. Insert the following provisions under Section 6. SEIZING AND IMPOUNDING:
 - 6.8 Where the Poundkeeper or Cat Control Officer discovers a feral cat, the Poundkeeper or Cat Control Officer may capture the said cat by way of trapping, or other humane means, and may sterilize, vaccinate and, following post operative care, return the feral cat to the same environment from which the feral cat was captured or, in the instance where the Poundkeeper or Cat Control Officer is not satisfied that the same environment is safe for the feral cat, provide a safe environment.
 - 6.9 Where the Poundkeeper or Cat Control Officer by way of capturing the feral cat, may place a cat in the same environment from which the cat was captured or may transport the cat to the owner's residence through the identification of the cat and if owner is not home they may release the cat on the property of the owner.
4. Insert the following provisions under Section 8. CARE OF ANIMALS:
 - 8.12 It shall be the owner's responsibility to identify any cat so as to assist in distinguishing a cat at large from a feral cat.
 - 8.13 The owner of a cat shall ensure that the cat is not running at large.

- 8.14 A Cat Control Officer under the direction of a Veterinarian, or a Veterinarian, may take immediate action to humanely address any sick or injured cat found within the Municipality where, in their opinion immediate euthanasia of the cat is necessary to avoid unnecessary suffering by the animal.
5. In the event of any conflict between any provisions of this by-law and any other by-law hereto are passed; the provisions of this by-law shall prevail.
6. This by-law shall come into force and take effect upon being passed by Council.

Read a first, second and third time and finally passed this 24th day of March, 2014.



Francis Richardson

Francis Richardson, Mayor

Robert H. A. Tremblay

Robert H. A. Tremblay, Clerk