

Please license your dog...it's the law!



Regional District of Central
Okanagan Dog Control
890 Weddell Place
Kelowna, BC
250-469-6284

Email: info-dogcontrol@rdco.com



Responsible Dog Ownership in the Regional District



What to do if...

If you lose your dog:

- Immediately contact RDCO Dog Control Services at 250-469-6284. Open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- If calling after hours please leave your name, contact information and details about the dog - name, breed, license number, and the time, date and location that the dog was last seen.
- It's important that dog owners report their missing dog as quickly as possible. Under RDCO Responsible Dog Owners Bylaw No. 1343, dogs turned into the Pound are only required to be kept for 72 hours.



If you find a dog:

- Please contact RDCO Dog Control services at 250-469-6284 and provide as much information as possible about the dog including breed, unique markings, dog license number and date, time, and location of where you found the dog.
- An after-hours drop off kennel is available at the Regional Dog Pound Facility at 890 Weddell Place. Please note that the kennel is not accessible during the winter due to inclement weather.
- If there is an **emergency** after hours (i.e. serious dog attack or injured dog), please call 250-469-6284 for after hours support.
- To report an animal in distress please contact the BC SPCA Provincial Call Centre at 1-855-622-7722.

The Principles of Responsible Dog Ownership

The Regional District of Central Okanagan and member municipalities strive to ensure our communities are dog friendly, recognizing that dog ownership is a privilege that carries many responsibilities not only for the care of your pet, but for the well being and harmony of your community.

We work together in a partnership to ensure that dogs, their owners and neighbours live together, respectful of each other's needs.

Regional Dog Control Services encourages and advocates for responsible dog ownership.



This requires dog owners support of the four principles of responsible dog ownership:

1. Provide a license and permanent ID for your pet.
2. Spay or neuter your pet.
3. Provide training, socialization, proper diet and medical care.
4. Don't allow your pet to become a threat or nuisance. Have control of your pet at all times.

Principle #1 - Provide a license and permanent identification

A dog license tag, worn on its collar/harness is the dog's one time free ride home should it unfortunately get away. A license enables Dog Control Services to reunite lost pets with their owners and families.

The RDCO Responsible Dog Ownership bylaw requires that all dogs over the age of three months residing within the Central Okanagan must be licensed and wear their dog tag. All dog licenses expire December 31 in any given calendar year.

The fine for having an unlicensed dog is \$300 plus the cost of purchasing a dog license.

The Regional District enforces a zero tolerance policy on all unlicensed dogs.

The annual cost of a dog license is \$40 for dogs that are spayed or neutered, \$80 if not. License fees are discounted by \$20 if paid by the last day of February of the licensing year.

It's important that dogs also have permanent identification, in case they get away or lose their license tag. One form of permanent identification is a tattoo, but this can fade or smear with age.



Owners may prefer to have a microchip, the size of a grain of rice, inserted under the dog's skin. If the dog is found, this information can be scanned to assist in reuniting the dog with its family.

If you move or change phone numbers, update your information with Dog Control Services and your microchip provider.

Principle #2 - Spay or neuter your pet

Not only does this prevent overpopulation, but it makes for a happier and often better behaved dog. In many cases, it eliminates excessive crying, howling, nervous pacing and frantic attempts to get out and find a mate. Spaying eliminates female heat cycles. Both procedures may also reduce or eliminate diseases, infections and cancers of the reproductive systems.

With spay/neuter surgery, pets enjoy better health often displaying improved disposition.

Principle #3 - Provide training, socialization, proper diets, & medical care

A basic obedience training program for your dog at an early age is often the first step to having a well socialized and behaved dog. Responsible dog owners ensure their dog doesn't bite, bark at, threaten or chase other animals, people, bicycles or vehicles.



If you take your dog to an off-leash dog park, your pet must be under your control at all times. This means your dog must be within sight and respond to voice, sound or sight commands from the owner, and come when it is called. Please remember that your dog must be on

leash in parking areas when travelling to an off-leash park to prevent injuries from moving vehicles.

All dogs require daily care, feeding, fresh water and exercise. Regular grooming, medical check ups and vaccinations are important responsibilities to keep your pet healthy.

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

Dog owners must leash (maximum 2 meters) their dog when off their property, except when walking in a designated off-leash area. Keeping your dog on a leash provides control and helps people and/or dogs feel safe around your dog. Dogs that are not under their owners control are considered 'at large'. The fines for failing to leash and dog 'at large' start at \$150 and increase with subsequent infractions. Responsible dog owners must ensure their fence or dog run is maintained and all gates are secure to keep their pet safely contained on their property.

Picking up after your dog

Owners are responsible for picking up all waste produced by their dog on and off their property. Dog feces pose a health risk. The fine for not picking up after your dog is \$150.

Barking Dogs

It's instinctive for dogs to bark, but responsible dog owners and good neighbours ensure barking doesn't become a nuisance. Dogs bark to communicate with other dogs, alert owners to possible danger, to protect their property and out of boredom. Proper training, supervision, exercise and stimulation will help prevent nuisance barking. The fine for a noisy dog is \$100.

Dogs in vehicles

Dogs should be secured in a moving vehicle, either in a secure kennel, in a harness or dog safety belt. It is illegal for a dog to be loose in the back of a pickup truck.

DO NOT leave your dog in a vehicle in hot or cold temperatures. The fine for a dog deemed in distress is \$150.

