

## **YOUR PET...**

## **...YOUR FRIEND**



A pet in your family can provide you with days filled with love and affection and years filled with comfort and reward. Being a responsible pet owner and taking good care of your pet will ensure that you both enjoy a happy and healthy life together for many years.

Part of responsible pet ownership is ensuring that your dog or cat has fresh food and water daily, is provided with shelter providing protection from wet and cold, and is protected from harm.

Cats and short-haired dogs are best kept inside when it gets cold. Shelter for outdoor dogs may include a dry, elevated dog house with clean, dry bedding and a flap over the opening to keep drafts out.

To keep warm when let outside in cold weather, a cat may crawl up under your car seeking shelter and warmth near the engine. It may get caught in the fan and seriously injured when the engine starts. If you must let your cat out of doors please ensure that it is on a lead at all times and the cat is not left out of doors for a long period of time.

Chemicals used to melt snow on sidewalks can also irritate pets' paws. Remember to wipe your pet's paws with a wet cloth after walking them. Dogs outside in the snow may need the ice between their paw pads also removed.

Antifreeze tastes good to pets, but it is a deadly poison. The most likely source of the poison is radiator drainage spots in your garage, which should be flushed with water immediately. Keep your pet safe from this danger – don't allow your pet to roam freely.

Spaying or neutering has many medical and behavioural benefits for your pet. Neutered dogs are healthier and less likely to develop medical problems. Neutering reduces the risk of injury and infection resulting from roaming and fighting, saving you expensive veterinary bills. Neutered dogs are more content and better behaved. Neutering reduces aggression against other animals.

Roaming tomcats fighting other cats are a neighborhood nuisance and are prone to develop infections and abscesses from their fighting.

By spaying or neutering your pet, you enhance its chances of living a long healthy life, save yourself a great deal of potential trouble and cost, and make your pet a more content family member. *(Provided by the American Humane Association)*

## **It's the Law...**

The City of Barrie has required for many years that dogs over the age of six months be licensed annually. In 2007 all cats over the age of six months will also be required to be licensed. The City has established this requirement in part to address the significantly growing cat population in the community and the resulting cat-related nuisance complaints. To date, poor descriptions and lack of identification on cats has resulted in a low rate of success in reuniting impounded cats with their owners.

Licensing your cat and dog will help enable Municipal Law Enforcement Officers and the Ontario SPCA to notify you so you may recover your pet should your pet be impounded as a result of being found at large or trespassing on the property of others. By ensuring your pet wears its licence tag officers may retrieve of ownership information through the licensing database. Please ensure your pet wears its licence tag at all times.

Dog and cat applications may be found on-line at the City's web site, [www.barrie.ca](http://www.barrie.ca) or by visiting the Municipal Law Enforcement Office, 56 Mulcaster Street, Barrie during regular business hours. If you are unable to access a computer or our office, please contact us at 739-4241 and we will assist you in securing the appropriate application enabling you to license your pet.

Confirmation that your pet has been pre-vaccinated for rabies will be required at the time of application. Upon proof of your pet being spayed or neutered, a reduced licence fee will be applied to your application.

No person shall own or harbour more than two dogs over the age of six months or six cats over the age of six months at any time.

## **DO'S AND DON'TS OF RESPONSIBLE PET CARE**

**DO** licence your dog and cat annually with the City of Barrie.

**DO** be aware of and comply with the municipal by-laws regulating your pet. They will protect your pet.

**DO** ensure that you "stoop and scoop" after your dog.

**DO** ensure that you provide an appropriately sized litter box for your cat. Litter boxes should be cleaned daily and the litter disposed of and the box sanitized weekly. Do not use a strong disinfectant as this will discourage your cat from using it. Rinsing the box weekly with boiling water and replacing the litter is a good "rule of thumb".

**DO** leash train your cat and dog. Keep your dog and cat on a leash whenever it is not on your own property. When dogs or cats are not leashed they may be exposed to a dangerous situation or interfere in an unwelcome way with the activities or property of others.

**DO** keep your pet clean and well groomed.

**DO** ensure your pet has fresh food and water daily.

**DO** register your pet as a patient and yourself as a client with a veterinarian

**DO** spay or neuter your pet. Be sure to have your pet checked and vaccinated annually by a qualified veterinarian

**DO** make the proper arrangements for the care of your pet when you are going on a vacation or going to be away from home for an extended period of time.

**DO** ensure that appropriate measures are taken to control your pet at all times and ensure that your pet does not interfere with another person or their pet.

**DO** make your home attractive for your pet with appropriate play areas, shade, a place to stretch out in the sun and always an available bowl of water.

**DON'T** allow your pet to roam freely. This endangers your pet's life!

**DON'T** allow your pet to foul private property, buildings, pavements, lawns and gardens or any city park, fields, etc.

**DON'T** allow your pet to trespass on the property of others. Your pet may be exposed to unforeseen dangers or frighten your neighbour.

**DON'T** allow your pet to be noisy and disturb your neighbours

**DON'T** leave your pet unattended in a hot vehicle or without a supply of fresh water

## **TRAINING YOUR CAT OR DOG**

The care and control of your pet is your responsibility.

A well trained dog is a much happier dog than an untrained one. If you take a little time you will find that the companionship of an obedient dog will more than repay your efforts.

A cat which is provided with appropriate toys, scratching posts and regular interactive play time with its owner will be a loving friend and companion for many years, and be content to be indoors.

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Your pet is your friend. Treat your friend with kindness, care and compassion.

Keep your friend safe by exercising responsible pet ownership.

**REMEMBER - Your friend's life depends on it!**

## **OTHER ANIMALS**

Unless specifically authorized by the City, City of Barrie by-laws prohibit the keeping or sale of animals which include:

- cattle, goats, sheep, swine, fox, mink, domestic fowl, and pigeons
- all snakes of the families pythonidae or boidae
- all poisonous or venomous snakes
- all poisonous or venomous arachnids (spiders)
- all poisonous or venomous lizards
- all felids, except the domestic cat
- all canids, except the domestic dog
- all mustelids (eg. Skunks, weasels, otters, badgers, except the domestic ferret)
- all marsupials (eg. Kangaroos and opossums)
- all bats
- all ursids (bears)
- all hyaenas
- all snapping turtles
- all elephants
- all non-human primates (i.e. monkeys)
- all crocodylians (eg. Alligators and crocodiles)
- all endangered species as defined by the Canadian Wildlife Service.

## **ENFORCEMENT**

The City of Barrie, Municipal Law Enforcement Section is primarily responsible for the enforcement of the various by-laws pertaining to the keeping of pets or other animals in the City of Barrie.

Inquiries and complaints may be directed to the Municipal Law Enforcement Office, 56 Mulcaster Street, Barrie, 705-739-4241.

Inquiries and complaints regarding the humane care of animals may be directed to the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, 705-728-7311.