



FAQ: Animal Control Service Changes

May 27, 2026

1. Why is the City discontinuing animal control services?

Council made the decision to discontinue municipal animal control services following a multi-year review of service delivery and financial sustainability. The cost of maintaining the service through the BC SPCA agreement had increased beyond what the City could reasonably sustain over time.

Council also considered alternative delivery models, including providing the service in-house, but these options were not financially or operationally viable.

2. What services are changing or ending?

The City, through its contractors, will no longer provide municipal animal control services effective December 1, 2026, including:

- Animal noise complaints
- Stray animal enforcement or pickup
- Non-emergency dog bite response
- Excessive animal complaints
- General animal control service requests

3. What services will the City still provide?

The City will continue to respond to deceased animals on City property through the Public Works team:

- Phone: 250-784-3623
- Email: publicworks@dawsoncreek.ca
- Online: Submit a concern via the [Report a Concern form](#) online

All other animal-related services will transition to external agencies.

4. When do these changes take effect?

The changes are effective as of December 1, 2026. The HomeSafe Program through the DocuPet portal will continue until that time and then will be discontinued. The HomeSafe Program connects lost pets with their owners through a registered tag system.

5. Do I still need to license my pet?

Pet licensing is still in effect until December 1, 2026. The HomeSafe Program through DocuPet remains in place until that time. The HomeSafe Program connects lost pets with their owners through a registered tag system.

6. Who do I contact for animal welfare concerns?

Animal welfare concerns (such as injured, neglected, or abandoned animals) should be directed to the BC SPCA.

The BC SPCA is an animal welfare organization that focuses on:

- Investigating animal cruelty and neglect
- Rescuing and sheltering animals in need
- Providing veterinary care and rehabilitation
- Supporting adoption and rehoming programs
- Delivering animal welfare education and outreach

The SPCA is not a municipal bylaw enforcement agency and will no longer provide general animal control services on behalf of the City of Dawson Creek effective December 1, 2026.

7. Who responds to dangerous animal situations?

If there is an immediate risk to public safety involving a dangerous or aggressive animal, residents should contact the RCMP or emergency services by calling 911.

8. Who handles wildlife concerns?

Wildlife-related concerns (such as moose, deer, bears, cougars, or other wildlife) are managed by appropriate provincial wildlife authorities.

9. What should I do if I find a dead animal on City property?

Dead animals on City property should be reported through to the Public Works team, who will continue to respond in these situations.

- Phone: 250-784-3623
- Email: publicworks@dawsoncreek.ca
- Online: Submit a concern via the [Report a Concern form](#) online

10. What role will the BC SPCA play once the Animal Control service agreement ends?

The BC SPCA will continue to operate independently across British Columbia and provides animal welfare services, including:

- Animal cruelty investigations
- Rescue and emergency response for animals in distress
- Shelter and adoption services
- Veterinary care and rehabilitation
- Humane education and outreach programs

The City's service agreement with the SPCA is what is ending — not the SPCA's operations or programs.

11. Is animal control still available in Dawson Creek?

Animal Control provided through the BC SPCA is still available until November 30, 2026. Municipal animal control services will end effective December 1, 2026. Residents will be directed to appropriate external agencies depending on the situation.

12. Why is pet licensing ending?

Pet licensing is tied to the municipal animal control service through the Animal Control Bylaw. Licensing will no longer be required effective December 1, 2026.

13. Will this impact public safety?

Public safety remains a priority. Situations involving immediate danger will continue to be addressed through emergency response services, including the RCMP where appropriate.

14. Who should I contact if I'm not sure who to call?

If you are unsure, you can contact the City at 311 or 250-784-3600, and staff will help direct you to the appropriate agency based on your situation or visit www.dawsoncreek.ca/animal-control.

15. What is the City's role moving forward?

The City will no longer provide animal control services. Its role will shift to ensuring residents are directed to the appropriate external agencies for animal-related concerns.

16. What if I recently purchased a licence for my pet?

Your pet licence is still viable until November 30, 2026. Effective December 1, 2026 pet licensing will no longer be required.