



DRAFT F-1 Animal Control By-law - Summary of Changes

Summary of Key Changes and Why They Are Being Proposed

1. Updated Legal Authority

The draft by-law is updated to reflect the *Local Governance Act* as the Town's authority to regulate animal control, enforcement, inspections, offences, and penalties.

2. Clearer and Expanded Definitions

The by-law now clearly defines terms such as:

- animal
- domestic pet
- livestock
- poultry
- at large
- owner
- Animal Control Officer (ACO)

References to livestock, poultry, and hens are intended to be consistent with (and not expand beyond) what is permitted through the Town's Municipal Zoning By-law.

3. Clarified Scope and Jurisdiction

The by-law applies to all lands and persons within the Municipality of Hartland but excludes wildlife in its natural state.

4. Recognition of Contracted Enforcement (NB SPCA)

The draft confirms that enforcement may be carried out by the Town or its appointed agent, such as the NB SPCA.

5. Separation of Fees and Fines from the By-law

Fees, charges, and fines are not fixed in the by-law and may be set by Council through resolution, policy, or a fee schedule.

6. Authority Without Mandatory Enforcement

The by-law confirms the Town's authority to act but does not require enforcement action in every situation.

What Is Not Changing

- The by-law does not create a new blanket requirement for enforcement action in every situation.
- The by-law does not regulate wildlife in its natural state (provincial jurisdiction).
- The by-law does not, by itself, set or increase specific fees or fines; those are considered separately by Council.
- The focus remains on public safety, nuisance situations, and animals running at large.



Key Impacts (Operational and Public)

- **Service delivery:** Confirms that animal control services may be delivered by the Town or its appointed agent (currently the NB SPCA), aligning the by-law with existing practice.
- **Consistency and clarity:** Clear definitions and scope reduce uncertainty for residents, staff, and enforcement partners.
- **Enforcement discretion:** Preserves the ability to prioritize files based on public safety, severity, repeat occurrences, and available resources.
- **Council control of fees/fines:** Enables Council to consider and update fees/fines through a separate process without needing to amend the by-law each time.
- **Dog licensing administration (DocuPet):** As advised by the NB SPCA, dog licensing (tags) is administered through DocuPet at no direct cost to the Town, and a portion of licensing revenue is remitted to the NB SPCA to support charitable animal welfare activities.

Resident & Councillor Q&A

Does this by-law introduce new rules for pet owners?

No. The by-law primarily clarifies existing expectations and modernizes language. Responsible pet owners are not affected.

Is the Town “cracking down” on animals?

No. The focus remains on public safety, animals running at large, and nuisance situations, not punishment.

Who enforces the by-law?

Enforcement may be carried out by the Town or its appointed agent, currently the NB SPCA, under service agreements.

Does this apply to livestock?

Livestock are included only where animals are at large or creating safety or nuisance concerns. The animal control by-law is intended to align with the Municipal Zoning By-law with respect to where livestock, poultry, and hens may be kept.

Does this apply to wildlife like deer or raccoons?

No. Wildlife in its natural state remains under provincial jurisdiction and is not regulated by this by-law.

Are new fines or fees being imposed?

No new fees are set through this by-law. Any fees or fines would be approved separately by Council. As advised by the NB SPCA, dog licensing (tags) is administered through DocuPet at no direct cost to the Town, and a portion of licensing revenue is remitted to the NB SPCA to support charitable animal welfare activities.

**Does the Town have to respond to every complaint?**

No. Complaints are triaged and responses are prioritized based on public safety risk, severity, repeat occurrences, and available resources.

What happens when an animal is found at large?

Response depends on the situation (including public safety risk, location, and whether the owner can be identified). Reports are typically received through the Town Office and then directed to the Town's contracted animal control service provider/ACO (currently the NB SPCA). The response may include attempting to identify the owner, education/warnings, issuing notices or tickets, and/or other enforcement action, consistent with the by-law and available resources.

What if the same owner has repeated complaints?

Where there is a pattern of non-compliance, the Town and/or its contracted animal control service provider may escalate the response (for example, moving from education/warnings to tickets or other enforcement measures) based on severity, frequency, and public safety considerations.

How should residents report an animal control concern?

Residents should contact the Town Office first so the concern can be logged and directed to the appropriate responder (the Town's contracted animal control service provider/ACO, currently the NB SPCA, where applicable). Useful details include date/time, location, description of the animal, whether there is an immediate safety risk, and any information that could help identify the owner.

Why is the Town updating this by-law now?

To:

- Align with current provincial legislation,
- Improve clarity and consistency,
- Reflect current service delivery practices, and
- Strengthen legal defensibility.