



Laws Relating to Dogs

in the City of Hamilton

Introduction

The City of Hamilton has several laws relating to dogs that include:

By-law	Contact Information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaning up after your Pets on Your Property • Excessive Noise (i.e. barking dogs) 	Municipal Law Enforcement Section: 905.546.2782
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dogs at Large and Dogs off Leash • Dog Licensing • Cleaning up after your Pets on Public Property or Private Property other than your own • Dog Owner’s Liability Act 	Animal Control Section: 905.574.3433
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rabies Immunization 	Public Health Services : 905.546.3570

Dogs at Large and Dogs off Leash (By-law 03-118)

Every dog owner shall provide restraints or enclosures sufficient for the purpose of confining the dog to the dog owner’s property or ensure that the dog is sufficiently trained so as to remain on the premises of the dog owner.

All dogs within the City of Hamilton must be under the control of their owner or a responsible person chosen by their owner. Consequently all dogs while in City parks or public areas, other than leash free areas, must be restrained by a person holding a leash attached to the dog’s collar or harness, or the dog must be confined to a cage or similar enclosure.

Keeping Your Property Free of Animal Waste (By-law 03-118)

Animal owners are to ensure there is no accumulation of animal waste on their own property. If an accumulation of waste is found by Municipal Law Enforcement officers you will be ordered to clean this up and you may also receive a fine.

Leash Free Areas (By-law 01-169)

All dogs within a leash free area must be under the supervision and control of their owner or a responsible person chosen by their owner, so as to prevent the dog from causing harm or injury.

Laws Relating to Dogs in the City of Hamilton

The following locations are designated as leash free areas:

Please note leash free areas are not enforced by Animal Control.

Dundas:

- Chegwin Park
- Little John Park
- Warren Park:
first Tuesday of September of a given year through to May 31st of the subsequent year, inclusive.

Ancaster:

Cinema Park:

Located on Golf Links Road beside Silvercity Theatres across from Kitty Murray Road

Other Areas in Hamilton:

Next to Hamilton-Burlington SPCA, 245 Dartnall Rd.

Hill Street Park:

March 1st to October 31st - 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 8p.m. to 11 p.m. and November 1st to February 28th - 6 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Excessive Noise by Dogs (By-law 03-020)

No person with an animal under their care and control shall fail to prevent the animal from emitting any persistent noise that disturbs the peace or comfort of any other person. Persistent noise may result in a fine.

To register a complaint about excessive noise by dogs or barking dogs, please contact Municipal Law Enforcement at 905.546.2489 or via email mle@hamilton.ca or visit their website at www.hamilton.ca/mle.

Dog Licensing (By-law 01-169)

Be a responsible pet owner and license your dog. All dog owners must obtain a licence for their dog in the City of Hamilton and affix the licence to their dog's collar. By law, dogs are required to be licensed by the age of three (3) months and their licences must be renewed each year.

If you own, have custody of or otherwise harbour an unlicensed dog you may be charged a fine of no less than \$235 and up to \$5,000.

Dog Licences may be purchased online, in-person, by mail and fax. For more information on dog licensing, ask about our Dog Licensing brochure, which is also available online.

Picking up after your pets on public and private property (By-law 01-069)

No person who has possession or control of a dog shall allow or permit the dog to defecate in a public place or on private property without the consent of the property owner. If the dog does defecate in a public place or on private property without consent of the property owner, the person having possession of the dog shall immediately and without delay, remove the waste and provide for its disposal. In this case, private property does not include the property of the dog owner.

Rabies Immunization (Ontario Regulation 567)

Ontario's Health Protection and Promotion Act requires that every owner in the City of Hamilton having the care and custody of a cat or dog that is three (3) months of age or older shall ensure that the animal is immunized against rabies.

For more information regarding the above legislations, please call the City of Hamilton, Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at: 905.546.CITY (2489)

Dog Owners' Liability Act

All dog owners are subject to the Provincial Dog Owners' Liability Act. Ask staff about the Dog Owners' Liability brochure or look for it on our website under brochures.

Information in this pamphlet is a summary only. For complete and accurate information, please see the noted legislation.

For more information contact:

Animal Control Services

247 Dartnall Road
Hamilton, Ontario, L8W 3V9

Phone: 905.574.3433

Fax: 905.574.8877

Email: animalcontrol@hamilton.ca

Website: www.hamilton.ca/animalcontrol

Monday - Friday

9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Closed on Holidays



PARKING AND BY-LAW SERVICES DIVISION
PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT