DISTRICT OF NEW HAZELTON
BYLAW NO 394, 2026
Animal Control and Licensing

A Bylaw to provide for the licensing and regulation of animals within the District of New Hazelton

---

The Council for the District of New Hazelton, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

1. **CITATION** this Bylaw will be cited for all purposes as "Animal Control and Licensing Bylaw No. 394, 2026."

2. **REPEAL** The *District of New Hazelton* Dog Control Bylaw No. 213, 1996 and any amendments are hereby repealed.

3. **DEFINITIONS** In this bylaw unless the context otherwise requires:

"Animal" means any mammal, bird reptile or insect;

"Animal Control Officer" means a municipal employee, officer, or agent designates by the Council for the purposes of enforcing and carrying out the provisions of this bylaw, and includes a Peace Officer or any person designated as a Bylaw Enforcement Officer;

"Animal Trap" means any apparatus approved by Council for the entrapment of animals;

"Beehive" means receptacle constructed and used for housing a bee colony;

"Beekeeping" means the keeping of bees in accordance with the Provincial Animal Health Act;

"Bylaw Enforcement Officer" means the person appointed to that position by resolution of the Council of the District of New Hazelton;

"Cat" means an animal of the feline species regardless of age or sex;

"Collector" means any person appointed by the District;

"Coop" means a covered enclosed structure to shelter hens;

"Council" means the Council of the District of New Hazelton;

"Dangerous Dog" means a dog that:

i. has killed or seriously injured a person;

ii. has killed or seriously injured a domestic animal, while in a public place or while on private property, other than property owned or occupied by the person responsible for the dog or;
iii. an Animal Control officer has reasonable grounds to believe is likely to kill or seriously injure a person or;

"Chief Financial Officer/Collector" means the person appointed to that position by resolution of Council, or their designate;

"District" means the District of New Hazelton;

"Dog" means any animal of the canine species regardless of sex or age;

"Hen" means a domestic female chicken that is at least four months old;

"Hen Keeping" means the keeping of Hens in accordance with this bylaw;

"Highway" includes every highway within the meaning of the Highway Act, and every road, street, lane or right-of-way designated or intended for, or used by, the general public for the passage of vehicles, and every private place or passageway to which the public, for the purposes of parking or servicing of vehicles, has access or is invited to;

"Impound" means to take into custody, confine, and hold;

"Keep" includes to own, possess, or harbour a dog, cat, or other animal;

"Leash" means a line or chain used for the purposes of restraining a dog which is made of materials of sufficient strength that a dog cannot break;

"Muzzled" means fitted with a device which, when placed over the mouth of a dog, is of sufficient strength and design to prevent the dog from biting any person or other animal;

"Nuisance Dog"means any dog which tends to disturb the peace, quiet, rest, enjoyment, comfort or convenience of the neighbourhood by its repeated barking or howling;

"Other Animal" means any animal, mammal, bird, reptile or amphibian, other than a dog or cat;

"Owner" includes any person who owns, possesses, has custody of, or harbours any dog, cat or other animal;

"Peace Officer" includes all members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, or any person designated as a Bylaw Enforcement Officer by Council;

"Police Dog" means a dog used by a Peace Officer;

"Pound" means any building or enclosure designated by Council as a place for the impoundment of animals;

"Pound Keeper" means the person or persons appointed by Council from time to time to keep a Pound, or the authorized agent of any corporation or society with whom the District of New Hazelton has an agreement to keep a Pound;

"Public Place" any place other than the property of the owner of the animal;

"Rooster" means a male chicken;

"Run at Large" with reference to a dog, cat, or other animal means being elsewhere than on the property of the person who keeps the animal, or of a person who has care, custody or control of the animal, and not being under the immediate charge or control of a responsible person;

"Seriously injured" means to injure to such an extent or in such a manner as to require that the victim seek medical attention;

"Unlicensed" means any animal for which the tag provided for by this Bylaw is not attached;

4. LICENCING

4.1 A person shall not keep in their possession within the District any dog or cat over the age of four (4) months unless a license under this bylaw been obtained.

4.2 An application for a license under this bylaw shall be made free of charge by completing a dog or cat license application form and presenting it to the District in exchange for a tag which is to be affixed to the dog or cat.

4.3 Every owner of a cat or dog shall affix, and keep affixed, sufficient identification on the cat or dog by a collar, harness, traceable tattoo, microchip or other suitable device such that a person finding the cat or dog at large in the municipality can identify and contact the owner.

4.4 If an owner of a dog or cat in respect to which a license was issued under this bylaw sells or otherwise ceases to be the owner of the dog or cat, the license shall be cancelled upon notification to the District.

4.5 A license shall not be issued to or in the name of any person under the age of eighteen (18) years.

4.6 A person must not remove a collar bearing a licence tag from any dog or cat, or remove a licence tag from any collar, except where removal is necessary by the owner, a veterinarian, or an animal groomer to provide grooming or veterinary care to the animal.

4.7 The Chief Financial Officer/Collector of the District may keep a record of the name, address, and telephone number of the owner of every dog or cat licensed under the provisions of this bylaw, as well as the date the license was issued, a description or photograph of the dog or cat, and the license number**.**

5. UNSANITARY CONDITIONS PROHIBITED

5.1 A person shall not keep an animal in an unsanitary condition within the municipality. Conditions shall be considered unsanitary where the keeping of an animal results in an accumulation of fecal matter, an odor, insect infestation, or rodent attractants which endanger the health of the animal or any person, or which disturb or are likely to disturb the enjoyment, comfort, or convenience of any person in or about any dwelling, office, public or commercial establishment.

5.2 If a dog or cat defecates on any public or private property other than the property of its owner, the owner shall cause such feces to be removed immediately.

6. CONTROL OF ANIMALS

6.1 For the purpose of this section, "unlawfully at large" means:

i. not leashed and under the control of a competent person while on a highway or in a park or other public place; or

ii. not confined within a building or securely tethered or prevented from leaving the property by an adequate fence while on the property of the owner of the animal, or on other private property with the consent of the owner or occupier of the property.

6.2 An animal owner shall not permit, suffer, or allow any animal to be unlawfully at large.

6.3 As an exception to section 6.2, no dog is considered "unlawfully at large" if it is:

i. actively involved in a formal dog show, dog trial or similar activity; or

ii. under the control of a Peace Officer or security guard acting in the course of their duties.

6.4 A dog owner shall not permit or allow any dog to howl or bark when such howling or barking disturbs the quiet, peace, rest enjoyment, comfort or convenience of any other person.

6.5 An animal owner shall not be permitted to possess or harbour more than three dogs over the age of four (4) months within the District, except in those areas where kennels are authorized.

6.6 Dogs and cats may be kept on any parcel of land within the District, subject to the conditions and restrictions set out in this bylaw.

6.7 A person shall not keep, harbour or have in their possession, an animal suffering from any infectious or contagious disease unless the animal is in isolation and under veterinary care for that disease.

6.8 An owner shall not allow an unspayed female dog or cat to run at large within the District.

7. DANGEROUS DOGS

7.1 For the purpose of this section, "at large" means:

i. a dog not leashed, muzzled, and under the control of a competent person while on a highway, in a park, or other public place; or
ii. not confined within a building or within a securely locked enclosure of a height and construction sufficient, in the opinion of the Animal Control Officer, to prevent the entry of young children and the escape of the dog while on the property of the owner of the dog.

7.2 An owner of a dangerous dog shall not permit, suffer or allow the dog to be at large.

7.3 As an exception to section 7.2, an owner of a dangerous dog shall not be considered "at large" while in attendance at, and participating in, any event sanctioned by the Canadian Kennel Club.

7.4 An owner of a dangerous dog shall display a sign at the entrance to the property and building in which the dog is kept, warning in writing as well as with a symbol that there is a dangerous dog on the property. The sign shall be visible and legible from the nearest road or thoroughfare.

7.5 The owner of any dangerous dog impounded under this bylaw may, unless an application has been made or will within forty-eight (48) hours be made under section 49 (10) of the *Community Charte*r [destruction of a dangerous dog], reclaim it on application to the Pound Keeper within forty-eight (48) hours from the time of its seizure by providing proof of ownership, paying any impoundment and related fees as set out in the current District of New Hazelton Fees and Charges Bylaw, and any applicable fine(s).

7.6 If a dangerous dog has been impounded and is not reclaimed within the seventy-two (72) hour impounding period, the Pound Keeper may:
i. cause such dangerous dog to be destroyed; or
ii. where the owner of such dangerous dog requests in writing a further period of time in which to construct an enclosure for the dog and has provided the District with additional fees specified in the current District of New Hazelton Fees and Charges Bylaw, extend the time to limit to reclaim the dog for a period of not more than ten (10) days.

7.7 If the Animal Control Officer believes that the dog is a dangerous dog, the Animal Control Officer may apply to the provincial court under Section 49 (10) of the *Community Charter* for an order that the dog be destroyed.

8. KEEPING OF CATS

8.1 An owner of a cat shall affix, and keep affixed, sufficient identification on the cat by a collar, or harness such that a person finding the cat at large in the municipality can identify and contact the owner.

8.2 An owner shall not permit a cat that is apparently over the age of six (6) months to be at large, unless such cat, if female, is spayed or if a male, is neutered.

9. HEN KEEPING

9.1 Hen Keeping up to six (6) hens only is permitted.

9.2 Hens must be provided with food, water, shelter, light, ventilation, veterinary care, and opportunities for essential behaviors such as scratching, dust bathing, and roosting, all sufficient to maintain the Hens in good health.

9.3 Hen Coops must be maintained in good repair, in a manner that prevents entrance by other animals, and kept in a sanitary condition free from vermin and obnoxious smells and substances.

9.4 Hens must be secured within a Coop from sunset to sunrise.

9.5 Feed must be stored in such a manner as to not provide an attractant to wildlife or vermin.

9.6 Manure must be stored within a fully enclosed structure, with no more than 0.08 m^3 ($3ft^3$) of manure stored at one time.

9.7 All manure not used for composting or fertilizing must be removed from the property.

9.8 The keeping of hens must not interfere with the rest, relaxation, and enjoyment of neighbouring residents.

10. BEEKEEPING

10.1 Beekeeping must be carried out in a manner that adheres to good management practices and maintains beehives in a condition that will reasonably promote bee health and prevent swarming and aggressive behaviour.

10.2 An adequate water supply must be provided to prevent the bees from seeking alternate sources.

10.3 All permitted beehives must be registered with the Apiculture Registration System for British Columbia, coordinated by the BC Ministry of Agriculture (BCMA). Under the authority of the Bee Regulations of the *Animal Health Act*, a person must not keep bees or possess beehive equipment unless the person is registered.

10.4 Each beehive shall comply with one of the following requirements to ensure the appropriate height of honeybee flight path:

i. The entrance to the beehive(s) will be facing away from the neighbouring properties and be located in a backyard which has a continuous fence or hedge that is 1.8 metres in height, or;

ii. If installed on an elevated platform (deck, rooftop, etc.) beehive(s) will be situated 2.5 metres or more above ground level.

11. POUND OPERATION AND ENFORCEMENT

11.1 The Chief Administrative Officer or Designate may appoint a person as Animal Control Officer for the purpose of enforcing and carrying out the provisions of this bylaw.

11.2 The Chief Administrative Officer or Designate may appoint a person or persons as Pound Keeper to operate such a pound, or may enter into an agreement with any person, corporation, or society to operate a Pound and act as Pound Keeper.

12. PROHIBITIONS

12.1 A person must not keep in any area or zone, temporarily or permanently, any horses, donkeys, cattle, swine, sheep, goats, roosters, ducks, geese, turkeys, pheasants, quail, or other poultry fowl, except this prohibition does not apply to:

i. keeping hens, subject to S. 9 of this bylaw;
ii. licensed pet shops or kennels; or
iii. slaughterhouses.

12.2 A person must not keep in any area, temporarily or permanently, at any one time, more than:

i. three (3) animals, in aggregate, of any combination of dogs and cats on any one parcel despite the number of dwelling units permissible on that parcel; and
ii. six (6) hens, in aggregate, on any one parcel despite the number of dwelling units permissible on that parcel.

12.3 A person may be granted permission to keep more animals than listed in S. 12.2 under special circumstances, which will be reviewed by the Chief Administrative Officer or Designate and the Animal Control Officer.

13. ENFORCEMENT

13.1 The Chief Administrative Officer or Designate may appoint a person as the Animal Control Officer for the purpose of enforcing and carrying out the provisions of this bylaw.

13.2 The Animal Control Officer may enforce the provisions of this bylaw and impound any:

i. unlicensed dog;
ii. dangerous dog found at large;
iii. dog other than a dangerous dog found unlawfully at large and not on the property of the owner of the dog, or on other private property with the consent of the owner or occupier of the property;
iv. dangerous dog found on private property other than that owned by the owner of the dangerous dog, and any dangerous dog found on private property owned by the owner of the dangerous dog provided seizure is accomplished under the provisions outlined in section 707.1 of the *Local Government Act*.

13.3 The Animal Control Officer is hereby authorized to use an Animal Trap on any public property to affect the seizure of any animal under the provisions of this bylaw, and may leave an Animal Trap on private property with consent of the owner for the same purpose, subject to the regulations outlined in Schedule "A".

13.4 A dog impounded under section any section of this bylaw shall be held in the Pound by the Animal Control Officer for a period of not less than forty-eight (48) hours and not more than seventy-two (72) hours, unless it is reclaimed sooner or, in the case of dangerous dog, its owner applies for an extension of this time period under section 7.6 (ii).

13.5 When an Animal Control Officer has reason to believe that an unlicensed dog is present on any premises, the Animal Control Officer may require the occupant premises:

i. to present evidence that a license has been obtained and a license tag has been issued for that dog;
ii. allow a period of twenty-four (24) hours to register the dog for a license; or
iii. to deliver the dog to the Animal Control Officer for impoundment.

13.6 A person shall not:

i. fail or refuse to produce, upon request of the Bylaw Enforcement Officer, any license or license tag issued for a dog;
ii. fail or refuse to deliver a dog to the Animal Control Officer; or
iii. interfere with the Animal Control Officer in the performance of their duties.

14. POWER OF ATTORNY

14.1 The Animal Control Officer is hereby authorized to enter at all reasonable times upon any property within the District which is subject to any of the regulations of this bylaw, in order to ascertain whether the provisions of this bylaw are being observed.

15. IMPOUNDED ANIMALS

15.1 During impoundment, every animal shall be supplied with sufficient quantities of food and water.

15.2 Where an impounded animal can be identified by a license, tag or other means, the District or Pound Keeper shall attempt to notify the owner by telephone.

15.3 Unless otherwise indicated in this bylaw, the owner of any animal impounded under this bylaw may reclaim it on application to the District or Pound Keeper within seventy-two (72) hours from the time of its seizure by providing proof of ownership and paying any impoundment and related fees specified in the current District of New Hazelton Fees and Charges Bylaw, as well as any other applicable fees.

15.4 The Animal Control Officer, or Pound Keeper shall keep an impound record book in the District office which shall be entered, with reference to each animal impounded, the date and hour of the animal's impoundment, a description of the animal and the location where it was apprehended, a photograph of the animal and the disposition of the animal.

15.5 If an impounded animal is not reclaimed within seventy-two (72) hours of seizure, the Animal Control Officer may dispose of it by:

i. humane destruction;
ii. adoption by an eligible person; or
iii. sale or surrender to an animal welfare agency capable of arranging for adoption of the dog to an eligible person after payment of the outstanding fees and fines.

15.6 For the purpose of section 15.5, an "eligible person" is defined as a person other than the dog's owner.

16. OFFENCE AND PENALTIES

16.1 Any person who attempts to rescue, or who rescues or releases any animal lawfully in the custody of the Pound Keeper or Animal Control Officer, or who obstructs or impedes the Pound Keeper or Animal Control Officer in the execution of their duties, shall be guilty of an offence.

16.2 Any person who violates or who causes to be violated any of the provisions of this bylaw shall be deemed to have committed an offence, and each day that such violation is caused or allowed to continue shall constitute a separate offence.

16.3 The Animal Control Officer shall issue a "Warning Notice" to any person alleged to have offended against the provisions of this bylaw by allowing a dog (other than a dangerous dog) to run at large or to be a nuisance dog. No Warning Notice shall be issued if the dog is seized and impounded.

16.4 The Animal Control Officer may issue a "Notice of Offence" to any person alleged to have offended against the provisions of this bylaw and the Notice of Offence shall specify that the owner may make payment to the District the sums specified in the District of New Hazelton Fees and Charges Bylaw.

16.5 A Notice of Offence as specified in S. 16.4 of this bylaw shall be deemed to be sufficiently served when:

i. a copy of the Offence is served on the person alleged to have contravened the bylaw as soon as possible after the alleged contravention, or
ii. a copy of the Offence is served in the same manner as a summons may be served under the *Offence Act*.

16.6 Every person who violates any of the provisions of is guilty of an offence against this bylaw and is liable, on summary conviction, to a fine of not more than five

hundred dollars ($500) and not less than one hundred dollars ($100) plus any fees and charges outstanding.

17. SEVERABILITY

17.1 If any portion of this bylaw is held to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of the bylaw.

18. EFFECTIVE DATE

18.1 This bylaw shall take effect upon its adoption.

19. SCHEDULE

19.1 Schedule "A" attached to and forming part of this bylaw sets out regulations regarding the use of Animal Traps on public and private properties.

READ A FIRST TIME THIS 10TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2026

READ A SECOND TIME THIS 10TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2026

READ A THIRD TIME THIS 10TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2026

ADOPTED THIS 8th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2026

MAYOR

CORPORATE OFFICER

SCHEDULE "A"

Regulations Regarding the Use of Animal Traps

1) An Animal Trap must be operated solely by the Animal Control Officer on public property.

2) The Animal Control Officer may, at their discretion, place an Animal Trap on private property, provided:
   a) the Animal Control Officer has written authorization from the owner of the private property on which the Animal Trap is to be placed; and
   b) the owner of the private property on which the trap is to be placed has agreed in writing to the terms outlined in Section 3 of this Schedule.

3) ANIMAL TRAP AGREEMENT

I, _____ herewith request the use of an
(Name of Property Owner)

Animal Trap for the period beginning _____and ending _____

at the following location: _____
(Residential Address or Property Description)

I agree to comply with the following regulations in the use of the said Animal Trap, and all the relevant provisions of the District of New Hazelton Animal Control and Licensing Bylaw No. 394, 2026:

1. The Animal Trap will be left in operation only during such times as I or my designate is present at the above location and at such time(s) as previously agreed with the Animal Control Officer;

2. The Animal Trap will not be left in operation overnight unless previously approved by the Animal Control Officer;

3. The property owner must notify the Animal Control Officer or the District as soon as an animal is caught in the Animal Trap;

4. The property owner is responsible for the welfare of any animal caught in the trap until it is collected for impoundment by the Animal Control Officer; and

5. Should the animal suffer any harm at the hands of the property owner, the property owner will be reported to British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

I acknowledge receipt of the Animal Trap and accept responsibility for the safekeeping of said Animal Trap.

_____ _____
Property Owner Date

_____
Animal Control Officer

BYLAW NO. 394
DOG LICENSE

License #	Year

This license is issued to the owner described, subject to the provisions of the *Community Charter* and to the bylaws of the Municipality.

Name of Owner	
Phone #	House #
Mailing Address	

DESCRIPTION OF DOG

Name of Dog _____ Male ☐ Female ☐

Breed_____

Colour & Markings_____

Disposition _____

_____

_____
Signature of License Collector

The information on this license is collected under the authority of the *Community Charter*, S.B.C. 2003, d.6 s.47-49 and will be used for the dog licensing and animal control records of the municipality. For further information, please contact the Municipal Clerk or the Freedom of Information and Privacy Coordinator.

BYLAW NO. 394
CAT LICENSE

License #	Year

This license is issued to the owner described, subject to the provisions of the *Community Charter* and to the bylaws of the Municipality.

Name of Owner	
Phone #	House #
Mailing Address	

DESCRIPTION OF CAT

Name of Cat _____ Male ☐ Female ☐

Breed _____

Colour & Markings _____

_____

Disposition _____

_____
Signature of License Collector

The information on this license is collected under the authority of the *Community Charter*, S.B.C. 2003, d.6 s.47-49 and will be used for the dog licensing and animal control records of the municipality. For further information, please contact the Municipal Clerk or the Freedom of Information and Privacy Coordinator.

BYLAW NO. 394

WARNING NOTICE

This is to advise we have reasonable grounds to believe that your animal;

Description _____

_____

is: _____ unlicensed _____ running at large _____nuisance

_____dangerous ____ unsprayed female dog or cat running at large while in heat

and therefore, in violation of the District of New Hazelton Animal Control and Licensing

Bylaw No. 394, 2026.

Please contact the District of New Hazelton for the immediate remedial action necessary.

Issued to: _____

Address: _____

Date: _____

_____

Animal Control Officer Signature

BYLAW NO. 394
NOTICE OF OFFENCE

NOTICE OF OFFENCE pursuant to Section 16.4 of "Animal Control and Licensing Bylaw No. 394, 2026"

TO: _____

ADDRESS: _____

_____

This is your NOTICE OF OFFENCE as prescribed under the said Bylaw in respect of the offence shown checked (X) below.

(A) FOR IMPOUNDMENT DOG:

$200.00 ☐ (1) Each Offence

(B) FOR DOG/CAT RUNNING AT LARGE:

$100.00 ☐ (1) First Offence for such dog/cat
$200.00 ☐ (2) Second Offence for such dog/cat
$300.00 ☐ (3) Third Offence for such dog/cat
$400.00 ☐ (4) Fourth Offence for such dog/cat

(C) FOR UNSPAYED FEMALE DOG/CAT RUNNING WHILE AT LARGE WHILE IN HEAT:

$110.00 ☐ (1) First Offence for such dog/cat
$210.00 ☐ (2) Second Offence for such dog/cat
$310.00 ☐ (3) Third Offence for such dog/cat
$410.00 ☐ (4) Fourth Offence for such dog/cat

(D) FOR IMPOUNDMENT OF ANY UNLICENCED DOG/CAT:

$120.00 ☐ (1) First Offence for such dog/cat
$220.00 ☐ (2) Second Offence for such dog/cat
$320.00 ☐ (3) Third Offence for such dog/cat
$420.00 ☐ (4) Fourth Offence for such dog/cat

(E) FOR NUISANCE DOGS/CATS:

$100.00 ☐ (1) First Offence for such dog/cat
$200.00 ☐ (2) Second Offence for such dog/cat
$300.00 ☐ (3) Third Offence for such dog/cat
$400.00 ☐ (4) Fourth Offence for such dog/cat

(F) FOR DANGERIOUS DOG AT LARGE:

$250.00 ☐ (1) Each Offence

IN ADDITION TO THE PAYMENTS REQUIRED UNDER A, B, C, D, E & F PRECEDING, THE FOLLOWING PAYMENTS WILL BE REQUIRED IF APPLICABLE, FOR UNLICENSED DOGS/CATS:

$ _____ Additional veterinary care and medication.

$ _____ **TOTAL PAYMENT required for this offence.**

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

The OFFENCE occurred at _____

_____ on this date _____

Brief description of dog/cat involved: _____

The total sum indicated above may be paid at the District Office during regular business hours at the 4670 10th Avenue, New Hazelton, B.C. within (4) days of the date of this Notice of Offence shown below, in lieu of appearing in Court to answer to any charge with respect to the said offence.

_____ _____

Signature of Animal Control Officer Date of this Notice