



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: August 9, 2006

Tougher Laws for Irresponsible Animal Owners

Earlier this month Pickering Council passed its new Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw (#6693/06). "This new bylaw brings us one step closer to ensuring Pickering residents are safe from aggressive and/or threatening dogs" says Lindsey Brenner, Supervisor of Animal Services.

Changes to this bylaw enable Animal Services to issue specific requirements to dog owners whose dogs have posed a safety risk to the public. Requirements may include mandatory obedience classes, sterilization and identification of the dog through microchipping and a photograph. The dog owner may also be responsible for ensuring that the dog is muzzled, walked on a leash no longer than 2 metres in length and under the control of a person over 16 years of age when off the premises of the owner.

With this new bylaw also comes a new Animal Services Committee. Ward 2 Regional Councillor Bill McLean says, "I am thrilled to be appointed to this committee and look forward to continuing to improve our services for our residents and their pets." The Animal Services Committee will be responsible for conducting the hearings, should the dog owner choose to appeal the Order. The City of Pickering will be looking for two residents (1 with professional animal experience and 1 with a general interest in the area). Appointments to this committee will take place over the next few months.

Other changes include an increase to three for the number of dogs permitted to reside in each home, enhanced definitions for animal noise, removal of excrement and the addition of minimal care requirements for animals.

For more information on the new bylaw or the Animal Services Committee visit cityofpickering.com/animals or contact 905.420.4660 ext. 2065.

- 30 -

Contact: Lindsey Brenner
Phone: 905.420.4660 ext. 2065
Email: lbrenner@city.pickering.on.ca

cityofpickering.com