



Semá:th Lands & Resources Department

Community Notice: Semá:th Animal Control Law July 2020

*****Attention Semá:th Community Members*****

****Summary of Semá:th Animal Control Law****

Date Posted: August 28th, 2020

Council is concerned about reports and complaints from Members regarding dog attacks and Members who do not feel it is safe to take a walk within the Reserve or let their children play in certain areas due to aggressive dogs and Council is of the opinion that an animal control law is urgently needed to protect Members.

The main purpose of the Semá:th Animal Control Law is for dangerous dogs which is classified with the tendency to aggressively attack without being provoked, bitten or killed another domestic or wild animal. Or where a dog has been trained or owned for the purpose of dog fighting.

The owner of any animal must ensure the animal does not run at large or trespass upon private lands. When walking a dog, a leash is mandatory, the dog can be off a leash when in the owner's securing fenced property or area specifically for the dog. The owner of a dangerous dog must have the dog muzzled at all times unless indoors or within a securely closed and locked enclosure.

The maximum number of cats and/or dogs a person can have on a parcel of land is 2 of each. A person who has a cat over the age of six (6) months must have the cat spayed or neutered by the SPCA or a veterinary surgeon.

The Semá:th Animal Control Officer may seize any animal, other than a spayed cat for at least seventy-two (72) hours who is found running at large to be placed in a Pound as established by Semá:th. If a female dog is in "heat" and found running at large the Animal Control Officer can retain the dog for twenty-one (21) days. If the animal is not picked by the owner after 72 hours of impoundment or 21 days plus an additional 72 hours for a female dog in heat the Animal Control Officer may sell or have the animal destroyed.

An owner of impounded animal must fill out an application to the Animal Control Officer and pay the appropriate fee as set out in Schedule "A" to have the animal released from the Pound. If veterinary costs involved while animal is impounded the owner of the animal is responsible for the costs.

If a complaint is received that a person or animal has been attacked, bitten, or aggressively pursued by a dog, or upon personal observation of any such actions, the following information may be recorded: The name of the complainant; The name of the dog and current license tag number, if known; The description of the dog; The name of the owner of the dog, if known; The date and place of the occurrence; A description of the actions giving rise to the complaint; and such other information or observations as the Animal Control Officer may consider relevant.

The Penalties to a Person who contravenes this Law or found guilty in Court the fine will not be more than \$10,000 for each offense. The fine for tickets under this Law is \$100 per day for each day of the offense.

Full copies of the Law are available at the Lands Office. If you have any written comments on the proposed Semá:th Animal Control Law please provide them by September 21, 2020 at 4:00 pm. Please call Semá:th Lands & Resources Manager at 604-852-4041, ext. 223, or via email at lands@sumasfirstnation.com

DISCLAIMER

*Disclaimer: This summary is an effort to explain the draft law in plain English.
However, this summary has no legal status: the law itself is the authoritative version*