

## **Presentation Summary**



### **Purpose:**

We are here to advocate for a municipal bylaw for cats in the City Of Langley. Bylaw stipulations we are asking the City to consider are:

- No person shall own, keep, possess or harbor any cat over the age of 6 months unless it has been spayed or neutered, or the person has a valid business license to breed cats.
- Cats must have sufficient identification (i.e. a tag with owner's valid contact info, traceable tattoo, or microchip) so that lost cats can be traced back to their owners.
- The owner, must ensure the animal(s) is provided with suitable food, water, shelter, and veterinary care.
- No person shall keep or allow to be kept on any real property more than a total of six (6) cats over the age of twelve (12) weeks, unless they are a licensee, community cat caregiver, veterinary clinic or animal shelter.

**Problem:** Uncontrolled breeding leads to cat overpopulation, increased stray and feral populations, cat hoarding. The majority of the community cat population stems from humans neglecting to spay/neuter their cats and the lack of permanent ID (Tattoo/Microchip) on their outdoor cats.

**Cat Hoarders:** Hoarded cats often lack adequate food, water, shelter, and veterinary care, leading to malnutrition, untreated illnesses, and suffering. If hoarders allow cats to roam freely, the stray population can increase, leading to property damage, wildlife predation, and additional community complaints.

### **Key Points:**

#### **Benefits of Spaying/Neutering**

Population Control, reduces the number of stray and feral cats in shelters and on streets, minimizing the need for euthanasia. Health Benefits:, lower risks of certain cancers and infections in cats. Behavioral Improvements, reduces spraying, roaming, and aggressive behaviors.

#### **Impact on the Community**

Assists SPCA and rescues when dealing with cat hoarding situations in the City Of Langley.

Economic Savings, fewer stray and hoarded animals mean reduced demand and costs for local shelters and animal control services.

Wildlife Protection, reduces predation on birds and small mammals by uncontrolled cat populations. Public Safety, limits the spread of diseases like toxoplasmosis and rabies.

### **Precedents and Resources:**

**Successful Examples:** Cities like Port Moody, Nanaimo and Richmond in BC have implemented similar bylaws, resulting in reduced stray populations and improved animal welfare. Bylaw links:

<https://www.portmoody.ca/common/Services/eDocs.ashx?docnumber=631683>

<https://www.nanaimo.ca/docs/services/home-and-property/animal-responsibility---fast-facts-brochure.pdf>

[https://www.richmond.ca/shared/assets/Bylaw No 7932 Consolidation 07272057004.pdf](https://www.richmond.ca/shared/assets/Bylaw%20No%207932%20Consolidation%2007272057004.pdf)

## **Cat Bylaw in the City Of Langley**

*Presented by Tara White & Laila Hamelin*



### **Bylaw Models:**

BC SPCA's model animal bylaws are based on effective animal control examples from municipalities and regional districts across British Columbia and can be found here: <https://spca.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/BC-SPCA-Model-Animal-Responsibility-Bylaws-Sept-2017.pdf>

BC Stewardship Center has done extensive research for cat bylaws and has put together recommended policies:

[https://www.stewardshipcentrebc.ca/PDF\\_docs/CatsBirds/Cats\\_BirdsRecommendedPoliciesBylaws2019.pdf](https://www.stewardshipcentrebc.ca/PDF_docs/CatsBirds/Cats_BirdsRecommendedPoliciesBylaws2019.pdf)

### **Implementation Strategy:**

**Limits on the number of cats:** Implementing animal welfare laws and limits on the number of cats per household can prevent hoarding and can assist rescues and the SPCA when dealing with a cat hoarder.

**Education Campaigns:** Raise awareness about the benefits of spaying and neutering. Low-Cost Clinics, provide affordable options to encourage compliance. Enforcement:, penalties for non-compliance, with exemptions for registered breeders. Community Support, highlight partnerships with animal welfare organizations, veterinary clinics and shelters to ensure public backing and effective program rollout.

**Low Cost Spay/Neuter Initiative:** The city partners with local veterinary clinics to provide affordable spay and neuter services for Langley residents.

### **Support:**

In September of this year we started a paper petition and were able to collect 120 signatures to support our efforts for this cat bylaw. We have also provided the City with a support letter for our cat bylaw from the Executive Director of the Stewardship Centre for B.C., Vancouver Orphan Kitten Rescue Association and Canadian Animal Rescue and Extended Shelter.

### **Conclusion:**

Call to Action, adoption of a spay/neuter bylaw is a compassionate, cost-effective solution to a preventable problem.

### **Vision:**

A healthier, safer community for cats, wildlife, and residents. By adopting a cat bylaw, we can reduce suffering, protect our environment, and ease the strain on local rescues. It's a vision of a city where outdoor cats aren't left to fend for themselves, where hoarding is prevented before it becomes a crisis, and where responsible pet ownership is the norm.

October 23, 2024 Recommended Bylaws and Policies

Happy Cat Brochure

Dear Mayor Pachal and Council,

**Re: Letter of Support for Cat Bylaws in the City of Langley**

On behalf of the Stewardship Centre for BC (SCBC), I would like to express our support for Tara White's petition urging the City of Langley to adopt responsible cat ownership bylaws.

Over the past decade, SCBC's Cats and Birds project has promoted responsible cat ownership practices to reduce the impacts of free-roaming cats on local wildlife and community health. Our efforts focus on collaborative partnerships with academics, animal welfare groups, conservation organizations, and governments to develop and deliver science-based resources and education. The success of our collaborative approach was highlighted in a case study on the application of translational ecology in avian conservation ([Saunders et al., 2021](#)).

Roaming cats are the #1 human-related cause of bird death in Canada. Cats also prey on bats, rodents, and reptiles, including species at risk like barn swallows and little brown myotis.


Additionally, outdoor cats are a vector of zoonotic diseases and parasites to other animals and people. Adopting the proposed bylaws is an important step towards protecting Langley's wildlife and local ecosystems, mitigating the cat overpopulation crisis, and ensuring a healthier community for all residents.

We encourage the City of Langley to adopt responsible cat ownership bylaws, including mandatory spaying and neutering, permanent identification and preventing cats from roaming at large (beyond private property). Such bylaws protect local wildlife, people and cats. SCBC is committed to supporting this initiative by sharing resources and collaborating on education and outreach efforts. The Stewardship Centre for BC's resources for local governments can be found on our website at the following links:

- [Reducing the Impacts of cats on birds and wildlife](#)
- [Recommended Bylaws and Policies](#)
- [Happy Cat Brochure](#)

Thank you for considering Tara's petition and this letter to take action to help animals and the community thrive. We look forward to the opportunity to work with you on this initiative, and please let me know if you have any questions ([sarah@stewardshipcentrebcc.ca](mailto:sarah@stewardshipcentrebcc.ca)).

Sincerely,



**Sarah Primeau**  
Executive Director  
Stewardship Centre for BC

November 24, 2024

**Letter of Support for proposed roaming cat bylaw**

I have been a trapper and critical neonatal feline volunteer for 6 years and have trapped over 3000 felines in this time frame. Surrey and Langley are the biggest feline populations of stray, abandoned, feral and hoarder situations. This includes as many as 85 at one residence due to a hoarding situation.

I was called in on 3 specific hoarding situations in Langley within a span of 3 months with a total of 113 kittens and cats being removed. I was called in to assist with the latest hoarding situation, as there were no municipal resources locally in Langley to help Ms. White and Ms. Hamelin get these felines into safety. ( ie: no option to call bylaws officers)

The responsibility fell to cat rescues VOKRA and CARES volunteers to step in, trap and take them into safety.

To note there were 2 babies that died due to rat bites at this site.

I feel strongly that there should be bylaws that can be enforced, to ensure your municipality has the measures in place to support the community members when in a situation of hoarding and feline rescue.

The rescues are completely overrun with the in-taking of felines, and our Vancouver-based rescue takes in over 4000 a year, mostly Surrey and Langley. We cannot sustain this financially nor should your local rescues be burdened with all the expenses.

Working together is key and having a bylaw that mandates that the cats be spayed/neutered and can be followed up with consequences absolutely would help reduce the numbers of felines at large.

Respectfully,

Therese McKirdy





Canadian Animal Recue & Extended Shelter (C.A.R.E.S.)  
373, #47 20821 Fraser Hwy  
Langley B.C. V3A 4G7  
PH: 604-532-5632

[www.carescatshelter.com](http://www.carescatshelter.com)

Dear Mayor Pachal and Langley City Council,

I am writing on behalf of C.A.R.E.S. Cat Shelter, a dedicated organization committed to the welfare and care of cats in Langley. We are proud to support Tara White, a cherished volunteer at our shelter, and Laila Hamelin a tireless advocate for animal welfare as they present their delegation regarding the implementation of a cat bylaw aimed at addressing the pressing issue of overpopulation.

As a shelter, we witness firsthand the challenges caused by the unchecked growth of the feline population. Each year, we take in numerous scared, feral, or neglected cats, many of whom require extensive medical treatment, rehabilitation, and socialization. These cases often consume substantial resources and occupy critical space for long periods, limiting our ability to provide immediate care to other cats in urgent need, including the beloved pets of seniors transitioning to care facilities. These cherished companions deserve a safe and loving haven during such transitions, but without systemic solutions, our capacity to help is constrained.

The proposed cat bylaw is an essential step toward curbing population growth and alleviating the strain on local shelters like ours. Measures such as mandatory spaying and neutering, microchipping, and registration can significantly reduce the number of stray and feral cats, improve public health and safety, and allow shelters to focus resources more effectively.

Together, we can create a community where every cat has a chance to thrive and no pet owner faces the heartbreak of being unable to find shelter for their cherished companion.

Sincerely,

**Carol Briner**

President C.A.R.E.S. Cat Shelter



## **PETITION TO: THE CITY OF LANGLEY**

**We, the undersigned, residents of the City of Langley draw the attention to mayors and councils of the City of Langley to the following:**

**THAT:** The majority of the community cat population stems from humans neglecting to spay/neuter their cats and the lack of permanent ID (Tattoo/Microchip) on their outdoor cats.

-Spaying and neutering cats helps reduce the number of strays or unwanted animals in communities. LAPS reports there are roughly 22,000 community cats in the City and Township of Langley combined— most of them are unaltered.

-Studies show that spayed/neutered pets, on average, live longer. Research also shows that the majority of cat pregnancies are unintended.

**THEREFORE:** Your petitioners call upon The City of Langley to create a bylaw regarding cat ownership within the City that includes:

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*\*Prior to this bylaw coming in to effect if you currently own more than six (6) cats over the age of twelve (12) weeks that are spayed/neutered you will be exempt from this bylaw. Any cats attained after this bylaw comes in to effect would be effected by this bylaw\**

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**SIGNATURE**

22(1) - 20 names/signatures



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