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City reminds residents that pet ownership is for life

February 1, 2017

Your pet. Your responsibility. That's the message the City's Animal Care and Control Centre (ACCC) is relaying to pet owners in February for National Responsible Pet Ownership Month. Pet ownership comes with significant commitments — to the pet, to the family, and also to the community in which they live. This year, the ACCC is raising awareness with a focus on three key priorities:

Take responsibility for your outdoor/roaming cat

- Allowing your cat to freely roam is dangerous for them and can lead to conflict with your neighbours. A cat roaming on someone else's property can be trapped and taken to the ACCC.
- Cats can live happy, healthy lives indoors. If you let your cat roam, attach something to its collar that indicates it is an outdoor cat.
- Cats should be spayed or neutered to prevent unwanted litters.

Keep your dog on-leash

- Pets are safest at the end of your leash.
- Dogs are only allowed to be loose on your property or in a designated [off-leash area](#).
- Dogs must be on-leash when on public property and are not allowed on school grounds, sports fields, playgrounds or golf courses. The fine for violating this bylaw is \$100.
- Dogs should be spayed or neutered to prevent unwanted litters.

Clean up after your pet; promptly and thoroughly

- Cleaning up after your pet isn't just the right thing to do, it's the law. The fine for failing to do so is \$100
- Carry a bag with you to pick-up your pet's waste whenever you are away from home.
- You don't need to clean up waste immediately on your own property, but you do need to clean it up regularly. Allowing excessive waste to build up negatively affects your neighbours and your pet.

Remember that as a pet owner, or a person controlling a pet, you are responsible and accountable for the actions of the animal. Following these simple responsible pet ownership principles will help keep your pet safe and your neighbours happy.

For more information:

edmonton.ca/pets

Media contact:

[Alison Burns](#)
Communications Advisor
780-944-7528

3rd Floor, City Hall
1 Sir Winston Churchill Square NW
Edmonton, AB
T5J 2R7
www.edmonton.ca
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