

Animal Protection and Control Act: requirements for care and control

Overview

The [Animal Protection and Control Act](#), which took effect in early 2024, outlines the requirements of animal care and control.

Animal owners in the Yukon are required by law to carry out specific duties to ensure the welfare and safety of their animals and the public. These responsibilities are outlined in the Act and its associated regulations. They are summarized below.

Duties of animal owners

Requirements for care

Anyone that owns an animal in the Yukon is legally required to provide the following, in a manner that is appropriate to the age, species and type of animal:

- food and water (must be sufficient to maintain a healthy body condition and adequate hydration),
- shelter that provides adequate ventilation, protection from heat and cold, sanitary living conditions and includes reasonable measures to keep predators out;
- living conditions that support the health and well-being of the animal and minimize the risk of injury;
- opportunity for exercise and socialization; and
- adequate care to address medical or health needs to prevent the animal from ongoing illness or suffering.

Animal owners in the Yukon must also:

- comply with the applicable standard of care for their animal, and
- comply with any requirements for care of animals prescribed by territorial regulations.

Standards of care

Standards of care outlined in the Act and regulations are informed by national codes of practice for livestock and other animals. This applies to animals such as beef, dairy and veal cattle, bison, goats, sheep, pigs, chicken and turkeys.

See Schedule 1 in the [Animal Protection and Control Regulation](#) to learn more about applicable standards of care for your animal.



Requirements for control

Anyone that owns an animal in the Yukon must keep their animal on their property or in their own vehicle, or manage the animal in a way that it does not:

- injure or kill any individual, animal or wildlife
- stray onto public property, including a highway or right-of-way, or the property of another person without that person's consent
- damage the property of another person or public property
- cause damage to wildlife populations
- cause damage to habitat or the environment that could jeopardize the productivity of these resources or the suitability to sustain wildlife populations
- have any other negative effect prescribed by the regulations.

Animal owners must also comply with any requirements for the control of animals prescribed by the regulations.

There may be specific animal-related bylaws or rules that apply in your area. Reach out directly to your local municipality or government for more information.

More information

Learn more about the [Animal Protection and Control Act](#) and regulations by visiting Yukon.ca/animal-protection.

For questions, contact the Animal Health Unit at animalhealth@yukon.ca or 867-667-5600.

Report a concern

For information on reporting dangerous or uncontrolled dogs, animals running at large, or neglected or abused animals, visit Yukon.ca/animal-protection.

If you spot a dog or cat loose on public property without their owner, consider:

- if there is an immediate risk to public safety, contact [your local RCMP office](#).
- if the animal is in an area run by a community government or municipality, first reach out to that local government's office. This includes places like the City of Whitehorse, Village of Haines Junction, First Nations and community governments

If you are in a place without a local government or your community does not have bylaws related to animal welfare or control, contact the [Animal Protection and Control Officer, Animal Health Unit](#) at animalhealth@yukon.ca or 867-667-5600.

To report concerns about the care or control of livestock, contact the [Agriculture Branch](#) at agriculture@yukon.ca or 867-667-5838.

