



TOWN OF GOLDEN

**Responsible Pet Ownership and Animal Control**

Bylaw No. 1510, 2026

**TOWN OF GOLDEN**  
**BYLAW NUMBER 1510, 2026**

**RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP AND ANIMAL CONTROL**

This Bylaw is to provide for the regulation, care, licencing, and control of Dogs/ Animals and to establish and operate the Animal Shelter within the Municipal Boundaries of the Town of Golden pursuant to the *Community Charter* and *Local Government Act*.

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Pursuant to the *Community Charter* and the *Local Government Act*, the Council of the Town of Golden, in open meeting assembled, **HEREBY ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:**

**PART 1 – INTRODUCTION**

**1. CITATION**

1.1 This Bylaw may be cited for all purposes as “Bylaw No. 1510, 2026 Town of Golden Responsible Pet Ownership and Animal Control.”

**2. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS**

2.1 In this Bylaw:

“**Abandoned**” means an Animal that:

- a. is apparently ownerless, as defined in the *Prevention of Cruelty Act*;
- b. is found Straying; or
- c. is left by an Owner with or without the intent to return.

“**Aggressive Behaviour**” means any behaviour by an Animal that intimidates or demonstrates a threat of harm directed at a person or Domestic Animal and includes, but is not limited to, snarling, growling, or pursuing a person or Domestic Animal, in the absence of a Mitigating Factor.

“**Aggressive Dog**” means a Dog that without provocation and in the absence of a Mitigating Factor:

- a. has displayed Aggressive Behaviour toward a person or Domestic Animal; or
- b. has caused a Minor Injury to a person or Domestic Animal.

“**Aggressive Dog Licence**” means a Dog Licence that is specifically for an Aggressive Dog.

“**Animal**” means

- a. any member of the Animal kingdom, other than a human being;
- b. includes a Domestic Animal as defined in the *Community Charter*,

but excludes wildlife, exotic animals and controlled alien species as defined under the *British Columbia Wildlife Act*.

**“Animal Control Officer”** means:

- a. a municipal employee or contractor employed or contracted by the Town for the purposes of enforcing this Bylaw;
- b. a person designated by the Council as an Animal Control Officer for the purposes of section 49 of the *Community Charter*;
- c. a Peace Officer; and
- d. a Bylaw Enforcement Officer.

**“At Large”** means:

- a. not restrained by means of a Leash where the Animal is on Public Property or private property other than property owned or occupied by the Owner of that Animal;
- b. not Under Control where the Animal is on Public Property or private property other than property owned or occupied by the Owner of that Animal;
- c. on unenclosed land owned or occupied by the Owner of the Animal, and not restrained or contained in a manner to prevent it from roaming; or
- d. a Vicious Dog or Dangerous Dog that is unsupervised on private property and is not contained in an Enclosure or securely confined within a dwelling.

**“Animal Shelter”** means a facility which is used to house or contain Animals, and which is owned, operated, or maintained by an incorporated humane society, animal welfare society, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals, or the Town to house or contain Animals.

**“Animal Shelter Manager”** means a municipal employee or contractor employed or contracted by the Town for the purposes of managing the Animal Shelter and includes those persons the Animal Shelter Manager delegates to manage the Animal Shelter.

**“BC SPCA”** means the BC Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

**“Backyard Hen”** means a female chicken or duck that is over four (4) months old and is kept on a parcel of land, occupied by a resident. This does not include land zoned for agricultural uses as defined by the Zoning Bylaw.

**“Backyard Hen Enclosure”** means an outdoor area that is covered with wire or steel mesh on the sides and roof, which is adequate to prevent the entry of Wildlife or other Animals and prevent the escape of a Backyard Hen enclosed therein with any combination of vegetated and bare earth.

**“Backyard Hen Keeping Registration”** means the written authority from the Town for the keeping of Backyard Hens pursuant to this Bylaw.

**“Bite”** means contact with a person or Domestic Animal, including bruising, breaking, or puncturing of the skin, caused by the teeth of an Animal.

**“Biting Dog”** means a Dog that has, in the absence of a Mitigating Factor(s), bitten a person or Domestic Animal.

**“Business Licence”** means a valid business licence issued under the *Town of Golden Trade Licencing Bylaw No. 990*, as amended or replaced.

**“Bylaw Enforcement Officer”** means any person appointed by Council to administer and enforce the provisions of this Bylaw, and a person so appointed is designated an Animal Control Officer for the purposes of section 49 of the *Community Charter*.

**“Cat”** means a member of the felis catus family, commonly known as a domestic Cat; irrespective of sex or age.

**“Community Charter”** means the *British Columbia Community Charter*, S.B.C. 2003, c. 26

**“Coop”** means an enclosed hut within a Backyard Hen Enclosure which provides shelter for a brood of Backyard Hens.

**“Council”** means the municipal Council for the Town of Golden.

**“Dangerous Dog”** means a Dog that, as defined by the *Community Charter*:

- a. has killed or Seriously Injured a person;
- b. has killed or Seriously Injured a Domestic Animal while in a Public Place or while on private property, other than property owned or occupied by the person responsible for the Dog;
- c. an Animal Control Officer has reasonable grounds to believe is likely to kill or Seriously Injure a person; or
- d. has been found by a court to be a Dangerous Dog.

**“Deliver”** means to send by regular or registered mail, or to leave with a person, to post upon some part of the person’s property, or to deposit in a mailbox or mail slot at the person’s last known residence address or place of business.

**“Distress”** means:

- a. deprived of adequate food, water, shelter, ventilation, light, space, exercise, care or Veterinary treatment;
- b. kept in conditions that are unsanitary;
- c. not protected from excessive heat or cold;
- d. injured, sick, in pain, or suffering; or
- e. abused or neglected.

**“Dog”** means a member of the canis familiaris family, commonly known as a domestic dog, irrespective of gender or age.

**“Dog Licence”** means a licence issued by the Town in accordance with section 8 of this Bylaw consisting of a tag issued by the Town which is impressed or stamped with a unique number.

**“Domestic Animal”** means, as defined in the *Community Charter*, an Animal that is tame or kept, or that has been or is being sufficiently tamed or kept, to serve some purpose for people.

**“Enclosure”** means a structure at least two metres in height, width, and length, constructed of rigid materials; designed with secure sides, top, and bottom, forming or causing an enclosure that is locked to prevent unauthorized entry; and is suitable to confine an Animal and to prevent the Animal from escaping; but excludes invisible fencing systems.

**“Guide Dog”** means a Dog that:

- a. is trained as a guide for a blind person, and
- b. is a certified Guide Dog under the *Guide Dog and Service Dog Act*, SBC 2015, c 17.

**“Identification”** means:

- a. a Town issued valid Dog Licence tag;
- b. a traceable tattoo;
- c. a traceable microchip; or
- d. a collar or tag worn by an Animal which includes the name, current address, and contact information of the Owner.

**“Impound”** means to seize, detain, deliver to, receive, or take into the custody of the Town.

**“Leash”** means a device, or use of a device, of sufficient strength and design to restrain the size and strength of the Animal for which it is being used, where one end remains securely affixed to a collar or harness securely attached to the Animal with the other end held by the Owner of the Animal.

**“Minor Injury”** means a physical injury to a person or Domestic Animal that includes, but is not limited to, pinches, minor localized bruising, shallow punctures, or lacerations.

**“Mitigating Factor”** means a circumstance, provoking event, deliberate action, or without being entirely determined by reason, an Animal’s level of response results in Aggressive Behaviour or a Dog Bite, which includes:

- a. responding to an attack by a person or Aggressive Animal;
- b. responding to an attack by a person or Aggressive Animal of the Animal's Owner or offspring;
- c. responding to teasing, torment, or other provocation; or
- d. defending the real or personal property of its Owner from trespass, damage, or theft.

**“Muzzle”** means a humane basket-style fastening or covering device that encloses the nose and mouth of an Animal and that is strong enough and well-fitted enough to prevent the Animal from biting, without interfering with the breathing, panting, or vision of the Animal or with the Animal's ability to drink.

**“Neuter”** means the sterilization of a male Animal by removal of the testicles or by any method of pharmaceutical sterilization approved by the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association.

**“Nuisance Animal”** means any Animal that is unreasonably disturbing the peace, quiet, enjoyment, or convenience of persons in the neighbourhood by its persistent barking or howling or is At Large in the neighbourhood.

**“Off-Leash Area”** means an area where a sign is posted by the Town indicating a specific geographic area where an Animal may be in a public place and not be restrained by a Leash.

**“On-Leash Area”** means areas designated by the Town as shown in Schedule “C” of this Bylaw.

**“Owner”** means a person:

- a. who owns, is in possession of or has care or control of an Animal, temporarily or permanently;
- b. to whom a Dog Licence has been issued under this Bylaw; or
- c. who is the legal parent or guardian of a child under the age of 18 years who owns, is in possession of, or has care or control of an Animal, who harbours, shelters, permits, or allows an Animal to remain on or about that person’s land or premises, temporarily or permanently.

**“Peace Officer”** includes:

- a. a mayor, sheriff, and sheriff’s officer;
- b. a warden, correctional officer, and any other officer or permanent employee of a penitentiary, prison, correctional centre, or youth custody centre; and
- c. a police officer, police constable, constable or other person employed for the preservation and maintenance of the public peace.

**“Permanent Identification”** means identification for an Animal in the form of a traceable tattoo or a microchip that contains the current contact information of the Owner.

**“Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act”** means the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act*, RSBC 1996, c 372.

**“Public Place”** includes a highway, street, lane, boulevard, park, or any other real property owned, held, vested in, or operated, managed, or administered by the Town, located within the Town, and includes places where the public is invited.

**“Rooster”** means a male domestic chicken.

**“Screening Officer”** means a person designated as Screening Officer as defined in *Bylaw No. 1475, 2022, Town of Golden Bylaw Notice and Adjudication System*, as amended or replaced.

**“Serious Injury/Seriously Injure/Seriously Injured”** means a physical injury to a person or Domestic Animal that includes, but is not limited to deep punctures, lacerations in more than one direction, broken bones, or requires sutures or cosmetic surgery.

**“Spay”** means the sterilization of a female Animal by removal of the ovaries or by any method of pharmaceutical sterilization approved by the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association.

**“Service Animal”** means:

- a. a Guide Dog;
- b. a Service Dog; or
- c. a guide animal for which a person with a disability has a certificate issued under section 7 of the *Guide Animal Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 177.

**“Service Dog”** means a Dog that:

- a. is trained to perform specific tasks to assist a person with a disability; and
- b. is certified as a Service Dog under the *Guide Dog and Service Dog Act*, SBC 2015, c.17.

**“Standards of Care”** means the provision of:

- a. adequate and appropriate food and potable water in sanitary receptacles;
- b. shelter in an area of sufficient size and which is maintained to prevent the Animal from suffering discomfort, and which includes clean bedding material;
- c. adequate exercise suitable for breed; and
- d. Veterinary care as may be required to maintain the health and comfort of the Animal.

**“Straying”** means, in respect of an Animal, wandering loose or being lost including without limitation being At Large.

**“Town”** means the Town of Golden.

**“Under Control”** means, in respect of any Animal, such circumstances where the Animal:

- a. is under physical restraint by hand, voice command, or electronic device; and
- b. is not displaying Aggressive Behaviour.

**“Unlicensed”** means:

- a. the Dog Licence fee for the current year has not been paid; or
- b. a Dog License tag is not attached.

**“Veterinarian”** means a person who is registered and in good standing with the College of Veterinarians of British Columbia to practice Veterinary medicine.

**“Vicious Dog”** means a Dog that, without provocation and in the absence of a Mitigating Factor:

- a. has caused a Minor Injury to a person or Domestic Animal on more than one occasion;
- b. has caused a Serious Injury to a person or Domestic Animal;
- c. the Animal Control Officer has reasonable grounds to believe that, based on repeated Aggressive Behaviour, is likely to cause a Minor Injury on more than

one occasion to a person or Animal or is likely to cause a Serious Injury to a person or Animal; or

d. is a Dangerous Dog.

**“Vicious Dog Licence”** means a Dog License that is specifically for a Vicious Dog.

**“Wildlife”** means wildlife as defined by the *BC Wildlife Act* and includes Animals whose ownership in captivity violates Provincial or Federal Canadian statutes.

**“Zoning Bylaw”** means the Zoning Bylaw in force within the Town, as amended or replaced.

## **PART 2 – ADMINISTRATION**

### **3. ESTABLISHMENT OF ANIMAL SHELTER**

3.1 The Town authorizes the establishment, maintenance, and operations of an Animal Shelter for the Impounding of dogs pursuant to the provisions of this Bylaw.

### **4. APPOINTMENT OF ANIMAL SHELTER MANAGER**

4.1 The Council may appoint or employ an employee or agent as the Animal Shelter Manager to operate and maintain the Animal Shelter in accordance with this Bylaw.

### **5. APPOINTMENT OF ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER**

5.1 The Council may appoint or employ an employee or agent as an Animal Control Officer that it deems necessary to enable it to carry out the powers and duties pursuant to this Bylaw and the *Community Charter*.

### **6. FEES**

6.1 The fees payable under this Bylaw are set out in Schedule “A,” which is attached to and forms part of this Bylaw. Every person liable for a fee under this Bylaw must pay it to the Town, whether collected on behalf of the Town by an employee or agent of the Town.

## **PART 3 – BACKYARD HEN KEEPING**

### **7. GENERAL**

7.1 An Owner must not keep Backyard Hens unless they have submitted a Backyard Hen Keeping Registration form, and the Town has issued them a Backyard Hen Keeping Registration.

7.2 An Owner must not keep Backyard Hens except in accordance with this Bylaw, the Zoning Bylaw, and with their Backyard Hen Keeping Registration.

7.3 An Owner who keeps Backyard Hens must:

- a. reside at the property where the Backyard Hens are kept; if renting a property, obtain written permission from persons owning said property;
- b. keep no more than six (6) Backyard Hens on a property;
- c. supply a Backyard Hen Enclosure that is at least 0.92 square meters (9.9 square feet) per Backyard Hen;

- d. not attach the Backyard Hen Enclosure to any other structure or dwelling on the property;
- e. not situate the Backyard Hen Enclosure within five (5) meters (16.4 feet) of a neighbouring dwelling's windows or doors;
- f. maintain Backyard Hen Enclosure so that it is enclosed entirely on all sides and the top;
- g. provide one Coop at least 0.37 square meters (four square feet) of floor area per Backyard Hen and no more than two meters (6.56 feet) in height containing at least one perch and one nest box for each Backyard Hen;
- h. ensure the maximum size of the Coop is less than or equal to 10 metres squared.
- i. provide each Backyard Hen with food, water, shelter, light, ventilation, Veterinary care, and opportunities for essential behaviours such as scratching, dust-bathing, and roosting;
- j. maintain each Backyard Hen Enclosure and Coop in good repair and keep the enclosure in sanitary condition, free from vermin, noxious smells, and substances;
- k. keep feed enclosed in an airtight container outside of the Backyard Hen Enclosure, store feed containers in a location not accessible by Wildlife or other Animals, and take steps to reduce other Wildlife attractants;
- l. not slaughter any Backyard Hen or Rooster on the property;
- m. not release any Backyard Hen into the wild; and
- n. not bury a Backyard Hen on the property.

7.4 An Owner must not, at any time, keep Roosters within the Town boundary.

7.5 An Owner is prohibited from keeping of Backyard Hens in a cage except in the case of transporting the Backyard Hen on or off the property.

7.6 An Owner must compost or dispose of any leftover food, manure, or waste products associated with the keeping of Backyard Hens to prevent odours and not allow them to accumulate. An Owner is prohibited from depositing manure into the Town's sewage or storm drain system.

7.7 An Owner must ensure that all Backyard Hens are kept within a secure Coop from sunset to sunrise and that each Backyard Hen remains at all other times in a Coop or Backyard Hen Enclosure.

## **PART 4 – DESIGNATIONS**

### **8. DESIGNATION OF AGGRESSIVE, VICIOUS & DANGEROUS DOGS**

8.1 Council designates to the Animal Control Officer the authority to exercise all the special powers in relation to Dangerous Dogs as set out in Section 49 of the *Community Charter*.

8.2 If an Animal Control Officer is of the opinion that a Dog is an Aggressive Dog or Vicious Dog, the Animal Control Officer may designate the Dog an Aggressive Dog or Vicious Dog.

- 8.3 If an Animal Control Officer designates a Dog as an Aggressive Dog or a Vicious Dog, they must Deliver a letter to the Owner of the Dog to the address indicated on the Dog License advising of the designation.
- 8.4 The Owner who receives a letter under section 9.2 of this Bylaw may, within seven (7) days of receiving the letter, request the Screening Officer or designate reconsider the designation.
- 8.5 Upon receiving a request under section 9.3 of this Bylaw, the Screening Officer or designate must consider the request and may:
- a. confirm the designation with respect to the Dog;
  - b. cancel the designation with respect to the Dog; or
  - c. reduce the designation to Aggressive Dog if the Dog was designated as a Vicious Dog, by Delivering a letter to the requesting Owner advising of the Screening Officer or designate's decision.

## **9. AGGRESSIVE DOGS**

9.1 The Owner of an Aggressive Dog must:

- a. not cause, permit, allow, or fail to prevent that Dog, at any time, to be At Large within the Town, whether or not the Owner has entrusted the care and custody of the Dog to any other person;
- b. when in a Public Place, secure the Dog by a collar or harness and a Leash, with a maximum length of 1.2 metres attached to the Owner of the Dog, that is suitable to the size and strength of the Dog, and which must not include a retractable style Leash;
- c. not cause, permit, allow, or fail to prevent the Dog to enter an Off-Leash area;
- d. ensure the Dog has Permanent Identification within 14 days of receiving notice of the Dog being designated an Aggressive Dog, and provide the Permanent Identification information to the Town;
- e. have the Aggressive Dog photographed and the photo retained at the Animal Shelter or Town for identification purposes;
- f. notify the Animal Control Officer within seven (7) days if the Dog moves, dies, changes address, or changes Owners, and provide the Animal Control Officer with updated information; and
- g. obtain an Aggressive Dog Licence as required under section 11 of this Bylaw.

9.2 After one year of the Dog being designated an Aggressive Dog, the Owner of the Dog may apply in writing to the Animal Control Officer to have the Aggressive Dog designation removed, and, if all of the requirements of this section are fulfilled to the satisfaction of the Animal Control Officer, the designation will be removed:

- a. the Dog has not displayed any further Aggressive Behavior or caused any further injury;
- b. the Town has not received any further complaints regarding that Dog;

- c. the Owner has provided proof and documentation that the Owner and Dog have successfully completed a humane training course designed to reasonably address the Aggressive Behaviour; and
- d. the Dog has Permanent Identification and a valid Aggressive Dog Licence.

9.3 If a Dog is designated as an Aggressive Dog more than once or further displays Aggressive Behaviour in the absence of a Mitigating Factor, the Owner of the Aggressive Dog must comply with the requirements of section 9.1 in perpetuity.

## **10. VICIOUS DOGS**

10.1 The Owner of a Vicious Dog must comply with the requirements of sections 9.1(a) to 9.1(f) of this Bylaw that apply to an Owner of an Aggressive Dog and must:

- a. when in a Public Place, Muzzle the Dog in a manner as to prevent it from being able to Bite a person or another Domestic Animal;
- b. obtain a Vicious Dog Licence as required under Section 11 of this Bylaw;
- c. post a clearly visible sign at all points of entry onto any premises where the Dog is being kept, temporarily or permanently, warning that there is a Vicious Dog on the premises; and
- d. at all times while the Vicious Dog is on the Owner's premises, keep the Vicious Dog securely confined indoors or confined outdoors in an Enclosure located within securely fenced premises, and ensure that all fences and gates are locked as to prevent access to the fenced area and the Enclosure.

## **PART 5 – LICENCING AND IDENTIFICATION**

### **11. DOG LICENCE**

11.1 Every Owner of a dog who resides in the Town for more than thirty (30) days within a year must obtain a Dog Licence before the dog reaches the age of four (4) months.

11.2 Every Dog Licence issued under this Bylaw must expire on the 31st day of December in the calendar year in which the Dog Licence was issued.

11.3 If an Owner seeks a reduced Dog Licence fee for a Dog that has been Neutered or Spayed, the Owner must include with the application a certificate signed by a Veterinarian indicating that the Dog has been Neutered or Spayed.

11.4 The Owner of a Dog for which a Dog Licence has been issued under this Bylaw must affix, and keep affixed, the Dog Licence on the Dog with a collar, harness, or other suitable device.

11.5 The Owner of any Dog with a Dog Licence must, within thirty (30) days of the owner's change of address, notify the Town.

11.6 The Town must not issue a Dog Licence to, or in the name of, any person under 18 years of age.

11.7 The Town must provide one Dog Licence per Dog and the Dog Licence is not transferable to another Dog.

- 11.8 Without limiting section 9.1(d), If an Owner applies for an Aggressive Dog Licence or a Vicious Dog Licence, the Owner must include the Aggressive or Vicious Dog's Permanent Identification information in the Aggressive Dog or Vicious Dog Licence application.
- 11.9 If the Owner of a Dog that is a Service Animal seeks a Dog Licence with exempt fees in respect of that Service Animal, the Owner must include a copy of the Guide Dog or Service Dog certification that was issued under the Guide Dog and Service Dog Act, SBC 2015, c 17 with the Dog Licence application.
- 11.10 The Dog License fees payable under this Bylaw are set out in Schedule "B" which is attached to and forms part of this Bylaw.

## **12. REVOCATION OF DOG LICENCE**

- 12.1 The Town may revoke a Dog Licence in respect of any Dog whose Owner has failed to pay any Dog Licence or Impoundment fees under this Bylaw and not reinstate that Dog Licence until all fees are paid.
- 12.2 If the Town revokes a Dog Licence, the Owner must pay penalties for an Unlicensed Dog for each day the Dog is Unlicensed.
- 12.3 If a Dog with a Dog Licence is subsequently deemed to be an Aggressive Dog or a Vicious Dog, the Dog Licence applicable to that Dog will become invalid the day the Animal Control Officer Delivers notice of the designation to the Owner, and the Owner of that Dog must apply for an Aggressive Dog Licence or a Vicious Dog License within seven (7) days, after which penalties for an Unlicensed Dog will begin to apply.
- 12.4 If a Dog Licence is revoked under this Bylaw, the Town must deliver notice of the revocation to the Owner at the address indicated on the Dog Licence application.

## **13. IDENTIFICATION**

- 13.1 Every Owner of a Cat or Dog must affix, and keep affixed, sufficient Identification on the Cat or Dog such that a person finding the Cat or Dog At Large in the Town can identify and contact the Owner and the Identification must provide a means of determining if the Cat or Dog is Spayed or Neutered.

## **PART 6 – CONTROL OF ANIMALS AND LIMITS**

### **14. CONTROL OF ANIMALS**

- 14.1 The Owner of an Animal must obey all posted signage that applies to that Animal while in a Public Place.
- 14.2 The Owner of an Animal must not cause, permit, allow, or fail to prevent that Animal to, in the absence of any Mitigating Factor:
- a. display Aggressive Behaviour towards a Person or a Domestic Animal;
  - b. cause a Minor Injury or Serious Injury to a Person or Domestic Animal; or
  - c. damage private or Public Property.

14.3 The Owner who knows or suspects that an Animal has a communicable disease must, where the disease poses a threat to the health or safety of a Person or Animal:

- a. isolate the Animal to the property or premises of the Owner for the period of time that the Animal has a communicable disease, other than for the purpose of visiting a Veterinarian;
- b. seek the assistance of and follow the orders of a Veterinarian; and
- c. transport the Animal in a manner to ensure it does not come into contact with another person or Animal.

14.4 The Owner of an Animal must not cause, permit, allow, or fail to prevent that Animal to be At Large within the Town, except Dogs in areas and at times specifically designated by a posted notice to be a Dog Off-Leash area.

14.5 The Owner of a Dog may allow the Animal to be At Large in an Off-Leash area, if the Owner:

- a. carries a Leash;
- b. keeps the Dog Under Control; and
- c. maintains a clear line of sight to the Dog at all times.

14.6 The Owner of a female Dog that is not Spayed must, during the time in which the Dog is in heat, confine the Dog in such a manner that the Dog cannot escape nor can another Dog enter the place in which the Dog is confined.

## **15. ANIMAL LIMITS**

15.1 A person must not, at any time, keep or allow to be kept on any real property more than a total of three (3) Dogs and three (3) Cats, unless the real property is:

- a. a Licensed veterinary clinic;
- b. the Animal Shelter; or
- c. a business with a Business Licence that provides care for Animals in a manner permitted by the Zoning Bylaw applicable to the land containing the business.

15.2 The restrictions in 15.1 do not apply to the keeping of Dogs or Cats under the age of four (4) months or Backyard Hens.

## **16. ANIMAL DEFECATION**

16.1 The Owner of an Animal that defecates in a Public Place or on any private property without the consent of the Owner of that property must immediately remove the excrement and dispose of it in a suitable refuse container.

## **17. REQUIREMENTS FOR DOG BITES**

17.1 The Owner of a Dog must not, at any time, leave the scene of a Dog Bite or incident in which a Serious Injury or Minor Injury to a person or Domestic Animal has occurred without:

- a. providing their name and contact information to the parties involved in the Dog Bite or incident; or
- b. making a report about the Dog Bite or incident to the Animal Control Officer; including name and contact information, within a period of twenty-four (24) hours.

## **PART 7 – STANDARDS OF CARE**

### **18. CARE FOR ANIMALS**

18.1 A person must not, at any time, keep any Animal in the Town unless the Animal is provided with:

- a. clean potable drinking water and food in sufficient quantity and of a recognized nutritional quality to allow for the Animal's normal growth and the maintenance of the Animal's normal body weight;
- b. clean food and water receptacles, located to avoid contamination;
- c. the opportunity for regular exercise sufficient to maintain the Animal's good health, including daily opportunities for social contact with people or Animals, free of a fixed area or an enclosure and exercised under appropriate control;
- d. necessary Veterinary care when the Animal exhibits signs of pain, injury, illness, suffering, or disease; and
- e. clean and sanitary living conditions, including the removal of excrement.

18.2 In accordance with the *Prevention of Animal Cruelty Act*, a person must not, at any time, keep any Animal which normally resides outside or which is kept outside unless the Animal is provided with outside shelter:

- a. which ensures protection from heat, cold, and wet that is appropriate to the Animal's weight and type of coat;
- b. which provides sufficient space to allow the Animal the ability to turn about freely and to easily stand, sit, and lie in a normal position; at least one and a half times the length of the Animal in all directions, and at least as high as the Animal's height measured from the floor to the highest point of the Animal when standing in a normal position plus 10 per cent;
- c. which provides sufficient shade to protect the Animal from the direct rays of the sun at all times;
- d. which contains dry bedding that will assist with maintaining normal body temperature; and
- e. which is regularly cleaned and sanitized and all excrement removed at least once per day.

### **19. TETHERING OF ANIMALS**

19.1 A person must not, at any time, cause, permit, or allow an Animal:

- a. to be tethered, hitched, tied, or fastened to a fixed object in such a way that the Animal is able to leave the boundaries of the Owner's property;
- b. to be tethered, hitched, tied, or fastened to a fixed object where a choke, prong, shock collar, or a chain forms part of the securing apparatus, or where a rope or cord is tied directly around the Animal's neck or be tethered other than with a collar or harness that is properly fitted to the Animal and attached in a manner that will not injure the Animal or enable the Animal to injure itself by pulling on the tether;
- c. to be tethered, hitched, tied, or fastened to a fixed object except with a tether of sufficient length to enable the full and unrestricted movement of the Animal; or
- d. to be tethered, hitched, tied, or fastened to a fixed object while the Animal is unattended at any time.

## **20. CONFINEMENT OF ANIMALS**

20.1 A person must not, at any time, permit or allow an Animal to be confined in an enclosed space including a motor vehicle, without sufficient ventilation to prevent the Animal from suffering discomfort, distress, or heat or cold-related injury. Such enclosed space or vehicle, if stationary, must be in an area providing sufficient shade to protect the Animal from the direct rays of the sun at all times.

## **21. TRANSPORTATION OF ANIMALS**

21.1 A person must not, at any time, transport an Animal in a vehicle outside of the passenger compartment or in an uncovered passenger compartment, unless it is confined in a pen or cage, or secured in a body harness or other manner of fastening to prevent it from jumping, falling off the vehicle, or otherwise injuring itself.

## **22. ANIMALS IN DISTRESS**

22.1 A person must not, at any time cause, permit, or allow an Animal to be in Distress.

## **23. ANIMAL SHELTER STANDARDS OF CARE**

23.1 The Animal Shelter Manager must be responsible for the Animals impounded under this Bylaw and may set standards regarding food, water, shelter, exercise, social interaction, and Veterinary attention for Animals kept in the Animal Shelter.

23.2 If an Animal Shelter Manager considers that an impounded Animal requires in shelter care, examination by a Veterinarian, or urgent Veterinary care to alleviate any pain or suffering, communicable disease, or parasite as recommended by a Veterinarian, then the Animal Shelter Manager may cause such care to be provided at the sole cost and expense of the Animal's Owner.

23.3 During or following the Impoundment period, the Animal Shelter Manager must, in consultation with a Veterinarian, take an Animal to a Veterinarian for euthanasia, if the Veterinarian reasonably believes:

- a. immediate Veterinary treatment cannot prolong the Animal's life; or
- b. prolonging the Animal's life would result in the Animal suffering unduly.

23.4 The Town is entitled to recover from the Owner the cost of Veterinary care provided while the Animal was Impounded, in addition to any other fees due to the Town for the redemption of the Animal.

## **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **24. NUISANCE ANIMALS**

24.1 The Owner of an Animal must not cause, permit, allow, or fail to prevent that Animal from being a Nuisance Animal.

24.2 An Animal Control Officer may, on having reasonable and probable grounds to believe an Animal that has been involved in incidents that have resulted in two or more Bylaw Offence convictions under this Bylaw, or has had two or more fines paid in relation to offences under this Bylaw, declare the Animal a Nuisance Animal and direct the Owner in writing in to take such actions as deemed necessary by the Animal Control Officer to ensure this Bylaw is not further contravened.

24.3 The Owner of a Nuisance Animal who fails to comply with the written direction of an Animal Control Officer pursuant to Section 24.2 is guilty of an offence.

### **25. SEIZURE AND IMPOUNDMENT**

25.1 An Animal Control Officer may seize and Impound:

- a. an unlicensed Dog;
- b. any Animal that is found At Large in a Public Place;
- c. any Animal that is found At Large or Straying on private property;
- d. any Animal found on unfenced land and not securely restrained or contained;
- e. any Animal that is or appears to be in Distress;
- f. any Animal presenting a threat of Serious Injury to a person or Animal; or
- g. any Animal found to be in contravention of any provision of this Bylaw.

25.2 An Animal Control Officer must, upon seizing an Animal, deliver the Animal to the designated Animal Shelter for Impoundment.

25.3 Upon receiving an Animal, the Animal Shelter Manager may, as the Animal Shelter Manager deems appropriate:

- a. ensure the Animal has adequate shelter, food, and water;
- b. check the Animal for any injuries or infections that may require treatment; and
- c. provide for Veterinary care and pain control for injured or ill impounded Animals as may be necessary to sustain its life and relieve Distress.

25.4 If an Animal has been Impounded under the provisions of this Bylaw, the Animal Shelter Manager must keep the Animal in their care for a minimum of three (days) or seventy-two (72) hours unless the Owner or the Owner's agent reclaims the Animal and takes possession of the Animal earlier.

25.5 Subject to section 26.4, every Owner or Owner's agent of an Animal that has been Impounded may reclaim the Animal by:

- a. attending the Animal Shelter with satisfactory proof of Ownership of the Animal; and
- b. paying in full all Dog License fees, Impounding fees, custodial fees for the care and maintenance of the Animal, and any other fees levied pursuant to this Bylaw, including Veterinary fees incurred while the Animal has been Impounded.

25.6 If an Animal has been Impounded for longer than three (days) or seventy-two (72) hours, the Animal Shelter Manager or designate may direct that the Animal:

- a. be offered for adoption to the general public; or
- b. be placed with any person or organization deemed acceptable by the Animal Shelter Manager and the Animal Control Officer.

25.7 The Owner of an Impounded Animal must pay in full all fees levied pursuant to this Bylaw, regardless of whether or not the Owner reclaims the Animal, including, but not limited to:

- a. the Impound fee for the Animal;
- b. the custodial fees for the care and maintenance of the Animal; and
- c. the Veterinarian fees.

25.8 The Owner of an Impounded Animal must pay any amount due owing for Veterinary Care that is in excess of the Veterinarian fees in "Schedule B" of this Bylaw as a debt due to the Town within 30 days of the Town Delivering the invoice to the Owner.

## **26. EXCEPTIONS**

26.1 The prohibitions set out in Part 6 and 7 of this Bylaw do not apply to:

- a. an Animal Shelter;
- b. any premises operated by BC SPCA;
- c. a veterinary hospital;
- d. educational facilities where Animals are being kept for study, research, or teaching purposes in conjunction with and under the direct sponsorship of a school or the Province of British Columbia;
- e. an Owner of a Dog that is conducting Wildlife control duties in accordance with a valid contract with the Town or Government agency while performing duties or training related to the contract; or
- f. a Dog being utilized by law enforcement officers while performing duties or training related to law enforcement.

## **RIGHT OF ENTRY**

26.2 An Animal Control Officer may enter on or into residential property in accordance with section 16 of the *Community Charter* to determine whether the requirements of this Bylaw are being met.

## **27. OFFENCE AND PENALTY**

27.1 Any person who causes, permits, or allows anything to be done in contravention or violation of this Bylaw, or who neglects or fails to do anything required to be done pursuant to this Bylaw, has committed an offence against this Bylaw and each day the offence continues must constitute a separate offence.

27.2 Any person who commits an offence under this Bylaw must be liable:

- a. upon summary conviction following a prosecution under the *Offence Act*, RSBC 1996, c 338, to a maximum fine of \$50,000, together with the cost of the prosecution and any other penalty or order imposed pursuant to the *Community Charter*, SBC 2003, c 26, the *Local Government Act*, RSBC 2015, c1, or the *Offence Act*; or
- b. if a Bylaw Notice is issued, to the fine amount specified in *Bylaw No. 1475, 2022 Town of Golden Bylaw Notice and Adjudication*, as amended or replaced.

27.3 Nothing in this Bylaw limits the Town from utilizing any other remedy that is otherwise available to the Town by law.

## **28. ON AND OFF-LEASH AREAS**

28.1 A map designating where Dogs must be on leash within Municipal Boundaries is set out in Schedule “C” which is attached to and forms part of this Bylaw.

## **29. INTERPRETATION AND SEVERABILITY**

29.1 Unless otherwise provided in this Bylaw, words and phrases used herein have the same meanings as in the *Community Charter* as the context and circumstances may require. A reference to a statute in this Bylaw refers to a statute of the Province of British Columbia and a reference to any statute, regulation, Bylaw, or other enactment refers to that enactment as it may be amended or replaced.

29.2 If this Bylaw is inconsistent with the *Community Charter* or other governing statute, the statute prevails. If any portion of this Bylaw is found invalid by a decision of a Court of competent jurisdiction, the invalid portion is severed without effect on the remaining portions of the Bylaw.

## **30. AMENDMENTS TO OTHER BYLAWS**

30.1 On adoption of this Bylaw, the *Town of Golden Bylaw Notice and Adjudication System Bylaw No. 1475, 2022* (the “Bylaw Adjudication Bylaw”), as amended from time to time, is hereby amended by replacing the Schedule attached to this Bylaw as Schedule “A” as the new Schedule “H” in the Bylaw Adjudication Bylaw.

**31. REPEAL**

31.1 The following bylaws and any amendments thereto, are hereby repealed in their entirety:

*Town of Golden Bylaw No. 28, 1960, Village of Golden Pound;*

*Town of Golden Bylaw No.116, 1963, Sanitation & Animal Control;*

*Town of Golden Bylaw No.422, 1977 Golden Sanitation Regulations and Animal Control  
Amendment Bylaw (116); and*

*Town of Golden Bylaw No. 1157, Animal Control Bylaw*

READ A FIRST TIME THIS                    16<sup>th</sup> DAY OF                    DECEMBER, 2025

READ A SECOND TIME THIS                20<sup>th</sup> DAY OF                    JANUARY, 2026

READ A THIRD TIME THIS                 3<sup>rd</sup> DAY OF                      FEBRUARY, 2026

ADOPTED THIS                                3<sup>rd</sup> DAY OF                      MARCH 2026

R. Oszust

A. Saville

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

\_\_\_\_\_  
CORPORATE OFFICER

**Schedule A**  
**Town of Golden Responsible Pet Ownership and Animal Control**  
**Bylaw No. 1510, 2026**

Section		Bylaw Contravention	A1	A2	A3
			Penalty	Payment within 14 days	Payment after 28 days
<b>Section 7</b>					
7.1		Fail to register hens with Town	\$ 70.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 90.00
7.2		Fail to keep in accordance with bylaw	\$ 70.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 90.00
7.3	a.	Fail to reside or obtain permission from property owner	\$ 70.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 90.00
	b.	Too many hens	\$ 70.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 90.00
	c. - j	Fail to meet enclosure requirements	\$ 100.00	\$ 80.00	\$ 120.00
	k.	Fail to secure feed from wildlife attractants	\$ 100.00	\$ 80.00	\$ 120.00
	l.	Slaughter on property	\$ 100.00	\$ 80.00	\$ 120.00
	m.	Hen at large	\$ 70.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 90.00
	n.	Bury on property	\$ 100.00	\$ 80.00	\$ 120.00
7.4		Rooster in Town boundary	\$ 100.00	\$ 80.00	\$ 120.00
7.5		Keeping of Backyard Hens in a cage	\$ 100.00	\$ 80.00	\$ 120.00
7.6		Improper disposal/accumulation of material	\$ 100.00	\$ 80.00	\$ 120.00
7.7		Hens not kept in Coop/Enclosure (sunset to sunrise.)	\$ 70.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 90.00
<b>Section 9</b>					
9.1	a.	Aggressive Dog at large	\$ 100.00	\$ 80.00	\$ 120.00
	b.	Aggressive Dog unleashed	\$ 100.00	\$ 80.00	\$ 120.00
	c.	Aggressive dog in off leash area	\$ 100.00	\$ 80.00	\$ 120.00
	d.	Fail to provide information about aggressive dog permanent ID	\$ 70.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 90.00
	e.	Fail to provide photo to shelter	\$ 70.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 90.00
	f.	Faily to notify	\$ 70.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 90.00
	g.	Unlicenced aggressive dog	\$ 100.00	\$ 80.00	\$ 120.00
<b>Section 10</b>					
10.1		Fail to comply with provisions 9.1 a. - f.	\$ 200.00	\$ 180.00	\$ 220.00
	a.	Fail to muzzle Vicious Dog	\$ 200.00	\$ 180.00	\$ 220.00
	b.	Fail to obtain Vicious Dog licence	\$ 200.00	\$ 180.00	\$ 220.00
	c.	Fail to post signage	\$ 200.00	\$ 180.00	\$ 220.00
	d.	Fail to keep vicious dog secure	\$ 200.00	\$ 180.00	\$ 220.00
<b>Section 11-13</b>					
11.1		Unlicenced dog	\$ 70.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 90.00
11.4		Fail to affix dog licence	\$ 70.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 90.00
11.5		Fail to notify change of address	\$ 70.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 90.00
12.2		Revoked licence	\$ 70.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 90.00
12.3		Fail to obtain licence under new designation	\$ 100.00	\$ 80.00	\$ 120.00
13.1		Fail to identify	\$ 70.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 90.00
<b>Section 14</b>					
14.1		Disobey signage	\$ 70.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 90.00
14.2	a.	Display aggressive behaviour	\$ 200.00	\$ 180.00	\$ 220.00

**Schedule A**  
**Town of Golden Responsible Pet Ownership and Animal Control**  
**Bylaw No. 1510, 2026**

Section		Bylaw Contravention	A1	A2	A3
			Penalty	Payment within 14 days	Payment after 28 days
	b.	Cause injury	\$ 300.00	\$ 280.00	\$ 320.00
	c.	Damage property	\$ 70.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 90.00
14.3	a.	Fail to isolate	\$ 70.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 90.00
	b.	Fail to seek veterinary care	\$ 70.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 90.00
	c.	Improper transport of Animal with communicable disease	\$ 70.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 90.00
14.4		Dog at large	\$ 70.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 90.00
14.5	a.	Fail to carry leash in off-leash area	\$ 70.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 90.00
	b.	Fail to maintain control in off-leash area	\$ 70.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 90.00
	c.	Fail to maintain line of sight in off-leash area	\$ 70.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 90.00
14.6		Fail to keep Dog in heat confined	\$ 70.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 90.00
<b>Section 15 - 17</b>					
15.1		Too many Animals (hens not included)	\$ 70.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 90.00
16.1		Fail to remove defecation	\$ 70.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 90.00
17.1	a.- b.	Leave scene of dog bite	\$ 200.00	\$ 180.00	\$ 220.00
<b>Section 18 - 22</b>					
18.1	a. - e.	Fail to provide adequate care	\$ 100.00	\$ 80.00	\$ 120.00
18.2	a. - e.	Fail to provide adequate outside shelter	\$ 100.00	\$ 80.00	\$ 120.00
19.1	a. - d.	Improper tethering	\$ 70.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 90.00
20.1		Improper confinement	\$ 70.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 90.00
21.1		Improper transport	\$ 70.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 90.00
22.1		Animal in distress	\$ 200.00	\$ 180.00	\$ 220.00
<b>Section 24- 27</b>					
24.1		Animal causing a nuisance	\$ 70.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 90.00
27.1		Interference with Animal Control Officer	\$ 180.00	\$ 160.00	\$ 200.00

**Schedule B**  
**Town of Golden Responsible Pet Ownership and Animal**  
**Control Bylaw No. 1510, 2026**  
**Licence Fees**

\*Licences are valid for the calendar year, from January 1 to December 31

Licence type	Licence Fee before February 1	Licence Fee on or after February 1
Dog <sup>1</sup> (spayed or neutered)	\$ 20.00	\$ 30.00
Dog, Intact <sup>1</sup>	\$ 50.00	\$ 70.00
Aggressive Dog <sup>1</sup>	\$ 100.00	\$ 125.00
Vicious/Dangerous Dog <sup>1</sup>	\$ 350.00	\$ 400.00
Service Dog/Police Dog	No charge	No charge
Replacement tag	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00

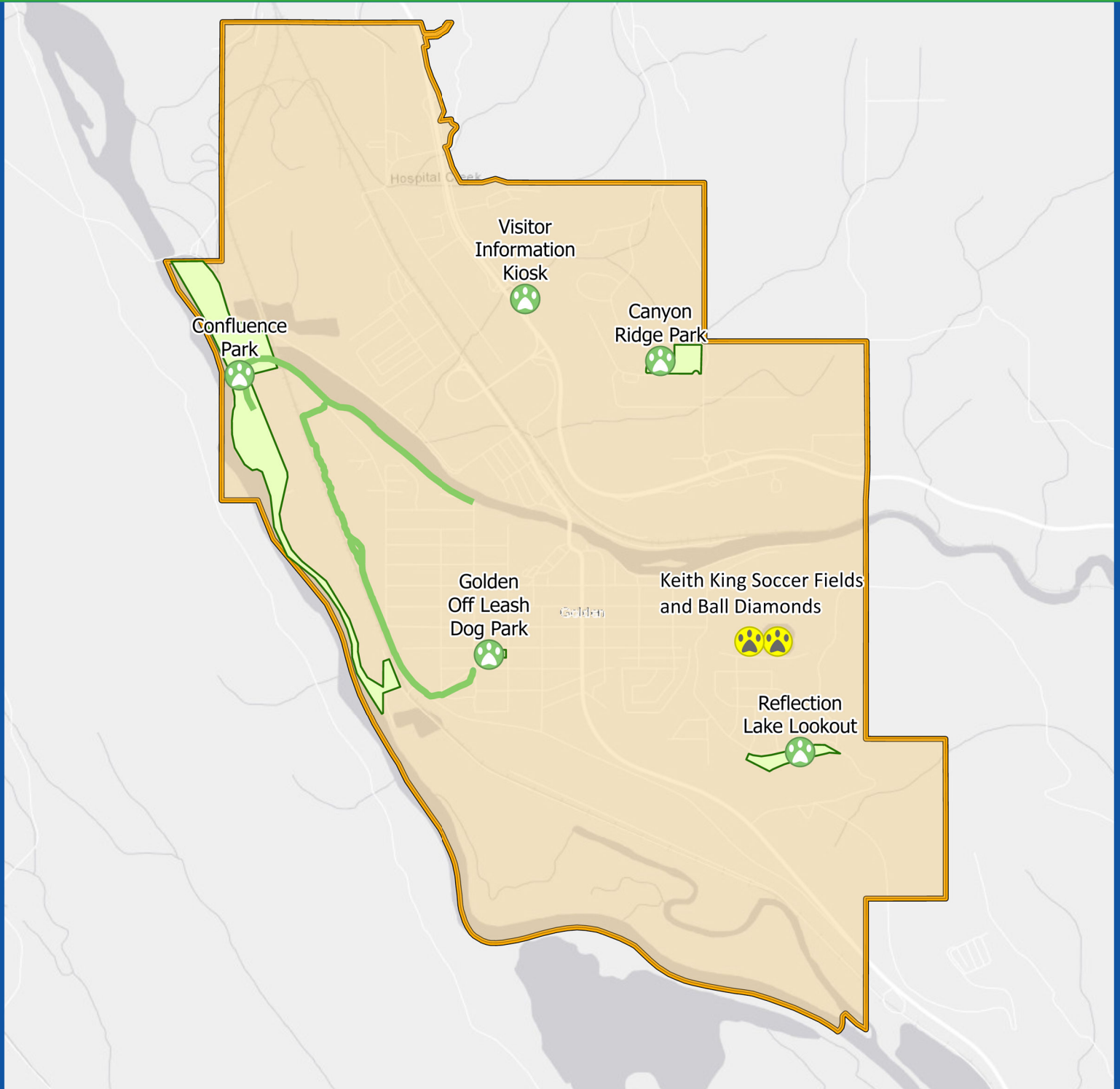
Impoundment Fees		
Unlicenced dog	\$75.00 (plus impoundment fee)	
Licenced Dog	First impoundment	\$50.00
	Second impoundment	\$100.00
	Third and subsequent impoundments	\$200.00
Boarding fees	\$50 per day while impounded	




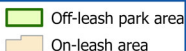
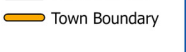

Note: Other fees associated with the animal's impoundment such as fines, purchase of a dog license, veterinary care and/or vaccinations must be paid prior to the animal being released.

Note: An additional impoundment fee of \$300 applies to an aggressive, vicious or dangerous dog upon impoundment.

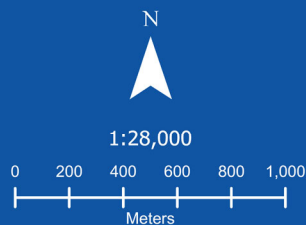
<sup>1</sup> Seniors 50% discount

# Town of Golden on-and off-leash areas



-  Seasonal on-leash regulations
-  Off-leash dog location
-  Off-leash dog trail
-  Off-leash park area
-  On-leash area
-  Town Boundary

\*Dogs on owner's private property may be off-leash provided they do not leave the owner's property



**SOURCE:**  
All data is the property of the Town of Golden.

**DISCLAIMER:**  
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