



Revenue from dog and cat licenses helps develop and maintain the City of Saskatoon’s 11 off-leash dog parks in Saskatoon. (SUPPLIED)

What’s new for you and your *furry pal* at Animal Services?

BY JEANNIE ARMSTRONG

One of the best resources pet owners can rely on is the City of Saskatoon’s Animal Services web pages.

By visiting this handy online portal, Saskatoon residents can purchase or renew a license for their dog or cat online, as well as learn great tips to help them be responsible pet owners.

The website is also a great way to stay informed about what’s new for pet owners, including announcements of pet-friendly events, changes to bylaws

and the addition of new off-leash dog parks, says Melissa Meacham, Open Space Consultant, Animal Services, with the City of Saskatoon.

PET LICENSE PORTAL

Meacham says that the number of pet owners utilizing the City’s online pet licensing service continues to increase. “In the past year, we did see quite an increase in online registration for dog and cat licenses. People appreciate the convenience of

using their mobile devices and laptops to purchase or renew pet licenses. The animal’s license information is uploaded within 24 hours into the system.”

Pet licenses can also be purchased in person at City Hall, or at one of eight pet license vendors located across Saskatoon. (See page 2 for a complete list of pet license vendors)

All dogs and cats over the age of four months require a valid pet license. Meacham notes there has been a slight

PET LICENSING – What Your License Pays For

- Bylaw enforcement
- Subsidized Spay and Neuter Program (SSNP)
- Dog park programming and development
- Pound services
- City-wide pet events



increase in rates for 2022 over the previous year. The annual license fee for a spayed/neutered dog has increased by just \$1 to \$31. If the dog has not been spayed or neutered, the annual license fee is \$62.

A license for a spayed/neutered cat is \$19; a license for an unaltered cat is \$42.

“The main benefit of having a license is pet identification. If your dog or cat ends up being at large and gets picked up by the Saskatoon Animal Control Agency (SACA), they will see a direct return home,” says Meacham.

If your dog or cat has been microchipped, this information can also be easily linked to your animal’s license, speeding up the identification process. SACA officers are equipped with scanners which can read the microchip and obtain information registered on the animal’s pet license application.

PAL PERK

Pet owners who license their dog or cat can take advantage of a valuable benefit: the Pet-At-Large (PAL) Perk, which is like a “get out of jail free” provision redeemable once during the pet’s lifetime. When the PAL Perk is applied, owners do not have to pay the \$100 at-large fine when their cat or dog is returned. Impound fees applied by the Saskatoon SPCA will also be waived.

When SACA officers pick up an unlicensed dog or cat that is running at large, they are required to issue a \$250 ticket to the owner.

PET-FRIENDLY EVENTS

Not only do revenues raised through the sale of pet licenses support the enforcement of the Animal Control and Dangerous Animal Bylaws by the Saskatoon Animal Control Agency, they also fund other programs delivered by the City’s Animal Services team. These include fun, pet-friendly events such as the Dog Day of Summer. The annual pool party for licensed dogs is scheduled to take place this year on Tuesday, August 23 at Mayfair Pool.

The event is open to well-socialized dogs with a valid license and up-to-date vaccinations. Different sessions are offered, beginning at 11 a.m. through to 7 p.m. “People can register their dogs to attend

on our website, at the end of July through early August. Watch for details on our social media, including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram,” says Meacham.

Animal Services also invites pet owners to participate in the Scoop the Poop events that take place in the majority of off-leash dog parks. “We try to organize these twice a year, in the spring after the snow has melted, and in the fall. It’s a way to bring the dog park community together. There are little giveaways, snacks and fun things like that,” says Meacham.

Pet license revenue also supports the Subsidized Spay and Neuter Program (SSNP). This beneficial initiative of the City of Saskatoon, the Saskatoon Academy of Veterinary Practitioners and the Western College of Veterinary Medicine helps provide low-income pet owners with affordable access to spay/neuter veterinary services.

DOG PARK NEWS

The Animal Services team also uses license revenue to help develop and maintain the

City’s numerous off-leash dog parks. There are currently 11 off-leash dog parks in Saskatoon, ranging in size from small urban parks such as Hyde Park and Caswell, to large, rural spaces such as Chief Whitecap and the Sutherland Beach dog park.

Two new dog parks are currently in development by the City of Saskatoon, exclusively for smaller breeds of dogs. “One will be developed on the east side of the city; one on the west side. The locations we are proposing is the Charlottetown Park which will be located behind the Cosmo Civic Centre, as well as an extension on the north side of the Hyde Park off-leash space in Rosewood,” says Meacham.

Following a review of an engagement study conducted in April, a final report is anticipated to be presented to City Council in June. “If that is approved, we will look to start construction this summer or in early fall. We hope to have at least one off-leash park designated for small dogs open in late fall, before the snow flies, if all goes as planned,” she adds.

An amendment was also made to the



The annual Dog Day of Summer pool party for licensed dogs returns to Mayfair Pool on Tuesday, August 23. The event is open to well-socialized dogs with a valid license and up-to-date vaccinations. (SUPPLIED)

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Pets like to ROAM. A license gets them HOME.

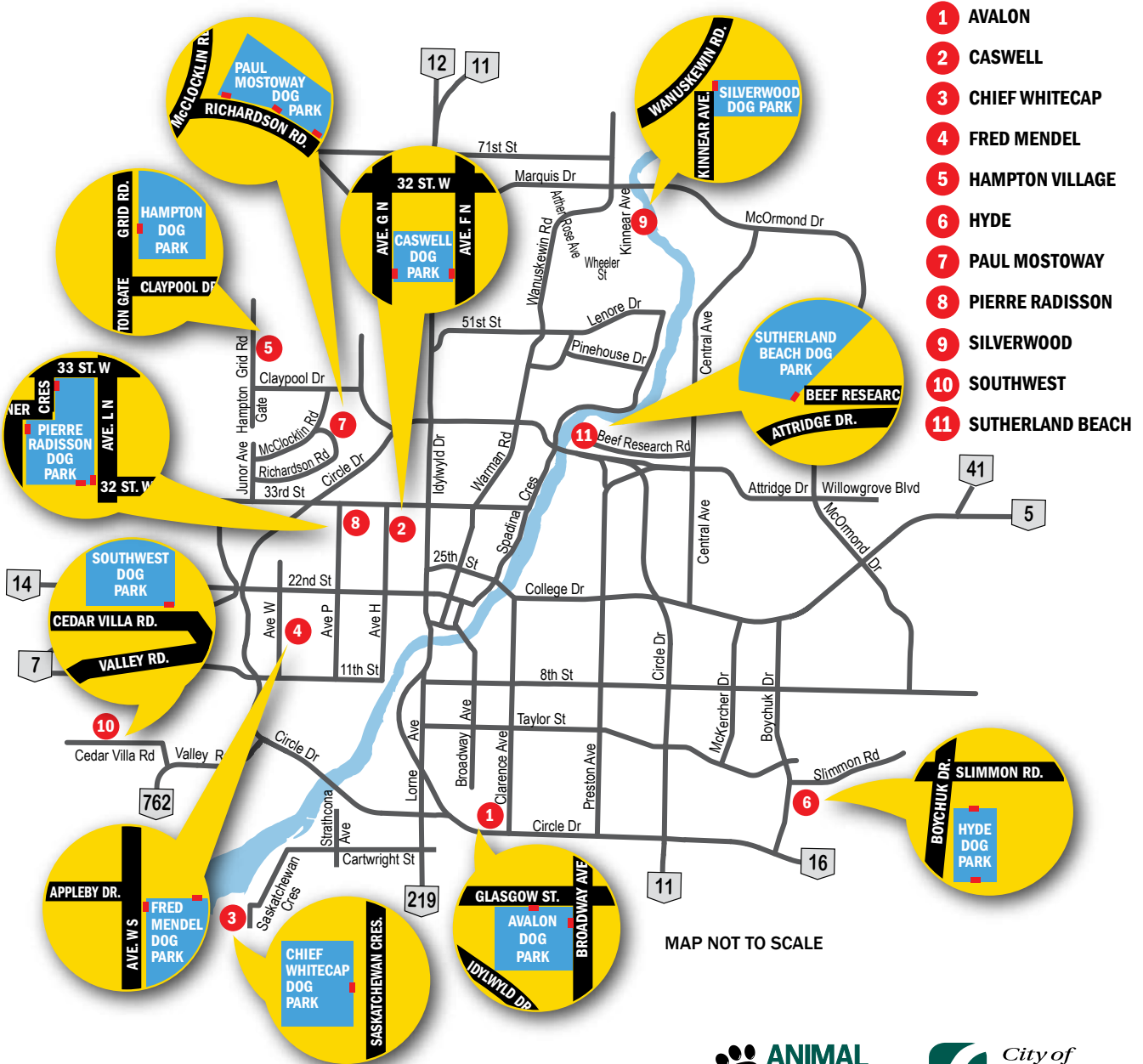
Purchase or Renew your license online. saskatoon.ca/petlicensing

A photograph of a dog, possibly a golden retriever, wearing sunglasses and a colorful lei. The dog is sitting on a blue suitcase. The background is a solid blue color.

DOG PARKS

All dogs must have a current pet license to access the dog parks.

For more information on Dog Park openings & closures, visit saskatoon.ca/dogparks.



MAP NOT TO SCALE



DOG PARK ETIQUETTE

- Your pet license is like an all-access pass to Saskatoon’s Dog Parks. Only licensed dogs are invited to play!
- Be a good buddy and interact with your dog, keeping him or her within sight at all times. Off-leash doesn’t mean unattended.
- Scoop your dog’s poop. Bring a few extra baggies, just in case.
- Play nice! Your dog should know and obey basic commands of come, sit and stay before visiting a Dog Park.
- If you take a toy to the park, expect other dogs to play with it. Better yet, leave the toys at home.
- Is your dog hot to trot? The mere presence of a female dog in heat can cause a frenzy among potential four-legged Romeos. It’s best to have your dog spayed or neutered before planning a Dog Park visit.
- If you have concerns about the behaviour of a dog or its owner while at the park, contact the Saskatoon Animal Control Agency at 306-385-PETS (7387).
- Have fun! When dogs and owners play by the rules, everyone has a good time!

Animal Control Bylaw relating to off-leash parks. In 2020, a change was made limiting the number of dogs that one individual can take into an off-leash park to four dogs.

An exception was made to the bylaw for commercial dog walkers. A permit program was developed that allows a qualified dog walker to exercise between five to eight licensed dogs at the same time. This exception only applies to the Chief Whitecap, Hampton, Southwest and Sutherland Beach dog parks.

The dog walker must apply for a permit and pass a 'road test' conducted by a SACA officer in one of the dog parks.

"We've had a few businesses take advantage of that permit program. It was a successful first year and we've had those businesses renew for 2022 as well," says Meacham.

PETS IN THE PARK

Pet lovers will also appreciate the bylaw amendment that was approved by City Council in October, 2021, which allows on-leash licensed dogs and cats to visit Kiwanis Memorial Park (north and south sides) with their owners.

"In 2019, the executive directors of Downtown YXE and the Downtown Business Improvement District requested that Council consider amending the bylaw which prohibited people from bringing their dogs and cats into Kiwanis Park. The amendment was noted as an opportunity to provide downtown residents and pet owners access to their neighbourhood green space and to help attract pet owners to live downtown," says Meacham.

"The feedback we received from the public, as well as external and internal stakeholders, showed support for permitting licensed, on-leash pets within Kiwanis Memorial Park. Eighty per cent were in support of allowing

pets to be on leash in the park. Based on that feedback, we recommended amending the bylaw and Council approved it. The amendment took effect on Dec. 10, 2021."

The City of Saskatoon is always working to make our community more pet-friendly, notes Meacham.

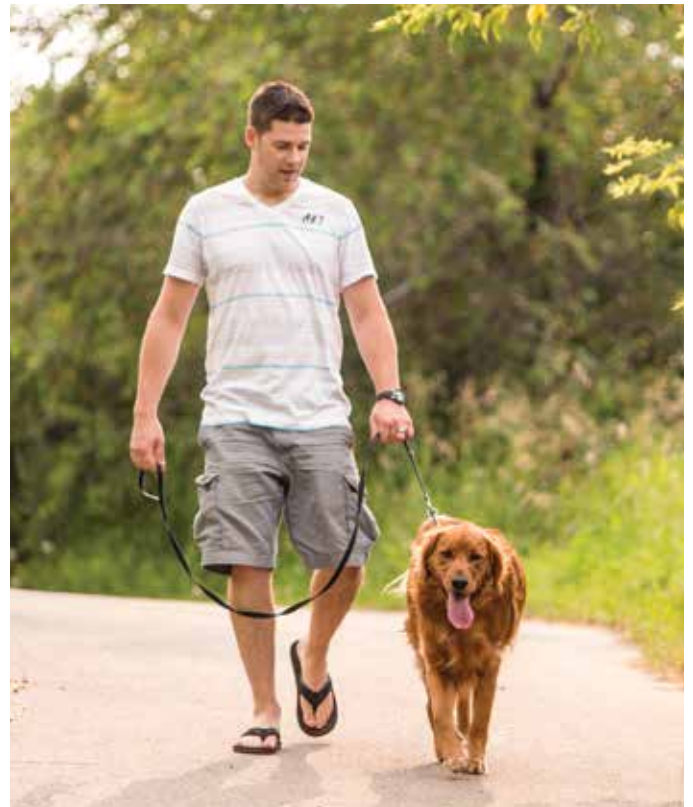
"Pets are part of the family, so increasing opportunities to take them out in public — whether to a special event, a local business or visiting an outdoor patio, is not only enjoyable for the pet owner, it helps the pet feel more connected to its owner and get the mental stimulation that they need."

BYLAW REVIEW

Every two years, the Animal Control and Dangerous Animal Bylaws are reviewed by the Animal Services Working Group, which includes representation from organizations such as the Saskatoon Animal Control Agency and Saskatoon SPCA, as well as City of Saskatoon administration. "These reviews take place to ensure our bylaws are kept up to date as different things occur. We also look to other municipalities to see what changes they have made.

There will be some changes to the bylaws that will be going to City Council this summer. One thing that will be included will be updates to the Prohibited Animals list, due in part to changes being made at the provincial government level. If approved by City Council, there will be some adjustments to the animals that people will be allowed to own. These changes mostly include different reptiles, particularly snakes," says Meacham.

To ensure you and your pet are up to date, go to Saskatoon.ca, click on "Services for Residents" and click again on "Pet Licensing & Animal Services." You can also go to the quick link at Saskatoon.ca/animalservices.



A bylaw amendment approved by City Council in October, 2021, now allows on-leash licensed dogs and cats to visit Kiwanis Memorial Park with their owners. (SUPPLIED)

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