



City of Iqaluit
100-1085 Mivvik Street
Iqaluit, Nunavut
X0A 3H0

Public Service Announcement

City Statement on Animal Control and Community Safety

May 22, 2025 – Iqaluit, Nunavut

The City of Iqaluit is reaffirming its commitment to public safety and responsible pet ownership in response to growing concerns about loose animals in the community.

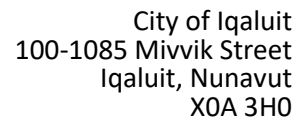
Domestic animals, especially dogs, hold deep cultural and personal significance in the North. However, when dogs are allowed to roam freely, they can pose serious risks to themselves, residents, and visitors. Across Nunavut and other northern communities, dog-related incidents have increased in recent years. These have resulted in serious injuries and, in some tragic cases, fatalities. Such events have deeply impacted communities and underscore the urgent need for effective animal control and prevention strategies.

To address these risks and enhance public safety, the City of Iqaluit has introduced By-law No. 1018, which amends the existing Domestic Animal Control By-law No. 924. The by-law has passed two readings, with a third and final reading scheduled for June 10, 2025.

Key proposed changes include:

- Reducing the holding period for stray animals from 72 hours to 24 hours, with an extension to 72 hours on weekends and holidays.
- Expanding enforcement authority to seize, impound, transfer, or euthanize animals under specific, exceptional circumstances.
- Increasing penalties for unlicensed animals or repeat offences.
- Reinforcing the requirement for pet licensing. This is free and available at the Municipal Enforcement Office (Building 1549).'

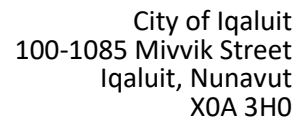
To provide transparency and context, here are animal-related statistics for the year to date (January 1 to present, 2025):



- These numbers reflect both the scale of the challenge and the progress being made. More than one-third of captured animals were successfully returned to their owners, demonstrating the importance of pet identification and public cooperation. The City has also facilitated local and out-of-territory adoptions to give more animals a second chance. With 54 dog tags issued already this year, responsible ownership is clearly growing, and these efforts are key to improving community safety.

The City emphasizes that euthanasia is a measure of last resort. It is used only after all reasonable efforts to return or rehome the animal have been exhausted, and only when health or safety is seriously at risk. The City remains committed to humane, culturally informed animal care practices and continues to seek partnerships with animal welfare organizations.

- Keeping pets leashed and under control in public.



- Thank you for supporting our shared goal of a safe, respectful, and responsible community for all.

For additional information, please contact:

Communications and Customer Service Manager

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