



## Cats “At Large” Complaint Information

### The Animal Control Bylaw No. 5/2018, Part 2 states:

For the purposes of Part 2 of this Bylaw, “nuisance or at large” includes but not limited to, fighting with other cats, defecating or spraying on private property without permission of the owner or occupant of the property, howling or hissing at night, digging in flower beds or garbage containers and trespassing on private property.

**Section 3. (1)** The owner of a cat shall ensure that the cat is not being a nuisance or at large.

**(2)** Where a cat is at large, the owner or occupant of the property on which the cat is at large may file a complaint to the Animal Control Officer or designate.

### What can you do when a cat is running at large in your neighbourhood?

1. If you know who the cat owner is or where it resides, Bylaw Services can issue a warning to the cat owner. Should our communication with the animal owner fail to bring about the desired results relative to the behavior of the cat, we are prepared to prosecute the owner in Provincial Court on your behalf. In order for us to do this, you must be willing to write a statement detailing what the cat has been doing, when, provide your name, etc.
2. You may borrow a cat trap from the City. When borrowing a cat trap there are some requirements such as: the trap must be placed on your property and must be checked every two hours. Cats that are captured must be treated humanely while in your possession and must be taken to the SPCA as soon as possible.

### **TIPS ON PREVENTING CAT COMPLAINTS**

The City of Yorkton is hopeful that all residents of the city can live in harmony with their neighbours. Unfortunately, irritants arise from time to time that do not encourage positive neighbourly relationships. Cats that are permitted to be a “nuisance and or run at large” are one such irritant.

Informed professionals advise us that the life expectancy of an outdoor cat is considered to be very short. These cats are struck by moving vehicles, caught in the fans of motor vehicles, mauled by stray dogs, injured in cat fights, and are exposed to disease, extreme heat and severe cold. The injury or death of your pet by any cause is highly emotional and frequently expensive experience.

We believe that the kindest thing you can do for your pet is to have it spayed or neutered and keep it indoors. You may also wish to consider harness and/or leash training, continual outdoor supervision, or building an enclosed cat run. Any activity you elect will keep your cat out of your neighbours’ yards will help improve neighbourhood relationships. It will also keep your cat from being trapped and you from being prosecuted in Provincial Court.

Be a responsible cat owner and a good neighbour:

- Spay or neuter your cat.
- Have your cat tattooed and register, microchip implanted, or wear identification bearing your name and telephone number.
- Keep your cat indoors, in an outdoor, enclosed cat run, on a harness or leash or under continual supervision.

If you own a cat and it has been a “nuisance and at large”, we suggest you take immediate steps to prevent it from doing so. If the cat continues to run at large, it may become necessary to trap the cat and/or prosecute the cat’s owner in Provincial Court.