

STAFF REPORT TO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Report Prepared By: Julia Tippett, Planner
Reviewed By: Jake Belobaba, RPP MCIP, Director of Development Services
Meeting Date: May 14, 2024
File No: 3360-23-09
Re: **Proposed Animal Control Bylaw to allow Backyard Poultry and Goats for Vegetation Management**

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Committee recommend that Council:

1. Give first, second and third readings to “Town of Ladysmith Animal Control Bylaw 2024, 2167”.
2. Direct staff to bring forward consequential amendments to the “Town of Ladysmith Zoning Bylaw 2014, No. 1860”.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report presents a new Animal Control Bylaw (Attachment A) for the Committee’s consideration. The proposed bylaw contains new rules allowing backyard poultry and the use of goats for vegetation management. Consequential zoning amendments will be presented at a future Council meeting should the Committee of the Whole recommend that staff take the proposed bylaw forward to Council.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION:

Resolution	Meeting Date	Resolution Details
CW 2023-073	2023-09-12	That the Committee direct staff to return to a future Committee of the Whole meeting with policy options for allowing livestock, under permit, for plant or weed control. <i>Motion Carried.</i>
CS 2023-019	2023-01-24	That Council: ... 3. Refer consideration of backyard chickens to a future meeting after the adoption of the Official Community Plan (OCP), when it can be considered as an OCP Implementation Policy.... <i>Motion Carried.</i>
CW 2023-009	2023-01-17	That the Committee recommend that Council refer consideration of backyard chickens to a future meeting after the adoption of the Official Community Plan (OCP), when it can be considered as an OCP Implementation Policy. <i>Motion Carried.</i>



MS 2017-083	2017-11-27	That the Committee recommend that Council introduce an amendment to Animal and Poultry Bylaw 1994, No. 1136 that would permit the raising of hens in backyards in appropriate residential zones in Ladysmith. <i>Motion Defeated.</i>
CS 2017-255	2017-08-21	That Council direct staff to: 1. Conduct a public consultation with Town residents on the desirability and possible content of an amendment to the “Animal and Poultry Bylaw 1994, No. 1136” to allow the keeping of hens on residentially zoned properties in the Town of Ladysmith... <i>Motion Carried.</i>

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND:

Section 318 of the *Local Government Act* gives local governments the authority to adopt a bylaw that regulates the keeping of animals, including the authority to define areas in which animals may or may not be kept. The current “Animal and Poultry Bylaw 1994, No. 1136” does not permit livestock, including poultry and goats, to reside on properties less than 2.0 acres in size.

Other municipalities on Vancouver Island, such as the City of Duncan and the City of Nanaimo, allow the keeping of backyard chickens and/or poultry on appropriately zoned residential properties or on properties of a certain size. Similarly, the City of Parksville and the City of Port Alberni have adopted bylaws to allow and regulate the use of goats for vegetation control and management. The proposed Animal Control Bylaw was informed by policies from similar sized and/or nearby municipalities that allow backyard hens and ducks and/or have bylaws for goat vegetation management.

The Town must consider how to manage compliance with the proposed Animal Control Bylaw. Other municipalities require licences from those who wish to keep backyard poultry on their property. It is also important to consider that exposure to backyard poultry can lead to human illnesses and that backyard poultry can lead to human-wildlife conflicts if precautions are not followed and if the poultry are improperly cared for.

Staff received comments from Conservation Officer Services regarding the allowance of backyard poultry and goats for vegetation management within the Town of Ladysmith., The Conservation Officer expressed concerns that chickens, ducks, and other livestock and animal feed are attractants for dangerous wildlife, including bears and in cougars. Conservation Officer Services stated that bears have a strong sense of smell, and in their opinion, introducing backyard poultry and other livestock into the Town would lead to an increase in human-wildlife conflicts and the destruction of more wildlife. Due to these observations, Conservation Officer Services does not support the allowance of backyard poultry and other livestock animals within the Town of Ladysmith.

Town staff received direction from the Committee of the Whole on September 12, 2023, to return with policy options to allow goats to be used for vegetation management and weed control. This direction came after a residential property had hired a local business employing goats for the removal of invasive plants.

In 2017, Council directed staff to conduct public consultation to gauge community support of an amendment to the “Animal and Poultry Bylaw 1994, No. 1136” that would permit the keeping of hens on certain residential properties in the Town. Public engagement results were generally favourable regarding the keeping of hens. In a survey carried out by the Town, 82 respondents were in favour of allowing backyard hens and 42 respondents were opposed.

Ultimately, Council defeated a motion to amend the Animal and Poultry Bylaw to allow the keeping of hens in certain residential zones.

More recently, Council passed resolution 2023-019 on January 24th, 2023, directing that backyard poultry be considered at a future meeting once the new OCP was adopted. Policy 2.4(ab) of the new OCP supports allowing backyard chickens.

Town of Ladysmith Development Services and Parks staff met with a local goat vegetation management business at Transfer Beach Park to discuss the benefits and challenges associated with operating a goat vegetation management business. The business owner informed staff that sheep tend to eat grasses, whereas goats prefer woody and leafy plants. The appropriateness of a vegetation control site is determined on a case-by-case basis. The business owner stated that leaving the goats onsite overnight depends on property surveillance and the goats’ safety.. Several of the business owner’s goats were obtained through a livestock supplier and would otherwise have been butchered for meat.

Attachment C contains photographs taken during an outdoor meeting at Transfer Beach Park with a local goat vegetation management business.

PROPOSAL:

Except for the properties within the proposed exclusion areas (Attachment B), the keeping of up to six backyard poultry would be permitted in specified residential zones in the Zoning Bylaw (consequential zoning amendments will be brought forward if the committee endorses the bylaw). The proposed Animal Control Bylaw includes rules related to the size and siting of coops and pens, adequate animal care, prevention of nuisances, and mitigation of wildlife associated risks. The bylaw proposes to allow any combination of adult hens and/or ducks. Additionally, the proposed bylaw sets parameters for the number of goats permitted for vegetation control purposes, temporary fencing, wrangling and safe keeping of the goats, and associated business licencing requirements.

Staff propose the creation of education programming, such as information pamphlets or a Frequently Asked Questions list, on the proposed bylaw requirements to promote awareness of rules and best practices associated with the keeping of backyard poultry.

DISCUSSION:

Official Community Plan Policy

Food security is identified as one of the most important actions within the Ladysmith/Stz’uminus Poverty Reduction Strategy (2022) and is recognized within the “Official Community Plan 2022, No. 2200”.

Table 1. provides a review of the OCP policies in relation to the keeping of backyard poultry and vegetation management using goats.

Table 1: OCP Policies relating to backyard poultry and vegetation management using goats.

OCP Policy Category and Policies	Comments
Part B: 2.4 General Land Use Policies	
Ecological and Resource Protection	
ab. Encourage food production in public and private lands and buildings. Examples include community gardens, Indigenous harvesting spaces, edible landscaping, permaculture, and small urban farms including those with urban farm animals such as chickens.	Allowing urban chickens encourages small scale food production. This can contribute to local food security and enhance education around home-based food production.
Part C: 4. Parks and Open Space	
4.19. Consider the following opportunities for use in parks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New models for promoting and sustaining biodiversity; • Planting of local and climate-adapted species, and the restoration of habitats; 	Vegetation management using goats can contribute to a more balanced ecosystem by targeting and removing invasive plants and making resources and space available for native and climate-adapted species in Town parks. Employing goats for vegetation management is a model for promoting biodiversity and controlling invasive plant species. Temporary fencing and other control methods can be carefully placed as goats may also eat some materials that have not been targeted for removal.
4.22. Strive to eradicate invasive plants from Town parkland.	The proposed Animal Control Bylaw exempts government authorities, such as the Town of Ladysmith, from the bylaw regulations. This will allow the Town and other government authorities (e.g. BC Hydro) to employ goats for invasive plant removal without limitations. Although goats employed for invasive plant removal may not completely eradicate the invasive species, it can help reduce the abundance and growth of invasive plants. Repetitive use of goats for vegetation control (e.g., having the goats graze on the site annually) can reduce the presence and recurrence of some invasive plant species in that area where grazing was permitted.

Rationale for Proposed Backyard Poultry Regulations

The proposed regulations have been designed to ensure adequate space is provided for backyard poultry while limiting proximity to residential dwellings, protecting against potential wildlife conflicts, and addressing concerns associated with health, safety, and associated nuisances.

Some of the primary concerns associated with the keeping of backyard poultry in urban areas include the possibility of attracting wildlife and increasing the incidences of human-wildlife conflicts. Several regulations aim to mitigate these concerns by requiring exclusion areas around places more suitable for wildlife habitat, such as parks and forested lands. A 200.0-metre buffer was applied to the P-3 – Nature Park zone, and currently forested, undeveloped parcels of land. The exclusion areas in Attachment B are based on this buffer and provide separation between wildlife habitat and corridor areas from residential zones that allow backyard poultry. Additional provisions, such as requiring fully enclosed coop and pen structures surrounded by fencing and securing the backyard poultry inside the coop from sunset to 7:00 a.m., intend to prevent wildlife from accessing the hens and ducks. Pen fencing and roofs must consist of corrosion-resistant metal wire with a minimum wire gauge of 14 and a maximum opening of two inches and must be fastened to the structure with corrosion resistant staples to ensure backyard poultry enclosures are strong enough to keep out wildlife, such as raccoons and bears, and to prevent wildlife from becoming entangled in the wire fencing.

The proposed Animal Control Bylaw prohibits the sale of meat, manure, and other backyard poultry products, except for the small-scale selling of eggs in accordance with BC Centre for Disease Control’s “Guidelines for the Sale of Foods at Temporary Food Markets¹”. These guidelines establish standards that reduce the risk of illness associated with consumption of ungraded eggs, such as prohibiting the sale of cracked or dirty eggs that may be contaminated with pathogens that could cause an individual to become ill. The sale of eggs is limited to the direct consumer or household of the individual purchasing the eggs to maintain awareness of quality control and assurance.

Rationale for Proposed Goat Vegetation Management

The Animal Control Bylaw proposes limits on the maximum number of goats onsite, proportional to parcel size, to ensure the herd can be adequately managed and contained within the worksite and to mitigate any potential impacts, such as nuisances, on neighbouring properties. The proposed regulations include a maximum duration of 30 consecutive days for goat vegetation management to ensure the goats do not remain on a parcel in Town for extended periods of time beyond those 30 days. Measures are also proposed to ensure that, if goats are to remain onsite overnight, that a wrangler or property owners is present and properly trained and equipped to respond to the goats’ needs. Goats must be kept inside a temporary shelter overnight to provide the animals with protection from weather and wildlife. Temporary animal-proof fencing made of woven wire, or like materials, must contain the goats to ensure they do not consume toxic plants and to provide protection against wildlife and other animals, such as dogs.

¹ BC Centre for Disease Control’s [“Guideline for the Sale of Foods at Temporary Food Markets”](#) establish the requirements for the sale of ungraded eggs.

Benefits and Challenges

Benefits

Backyard Poultry

Allowing backyard poultry supports sustainability and food security, community building and social wellbeing, food waste reduction, and public education. Residents can keep poultry that produce eggs to mitigate high food costs and provide a regular food source. This can also encourage individuals to learn more about sustainable, local food production and animal husbandry practices. Backyard poultry can help control pest and insect populations, complementing urban gardens. Hens and ducks can be fed food scraps reducing food waste (which the Town must otherwise collect and dispose of) and reducing the cost of egg production.

Goats for Vegetation Management

Prescribed goat browsing is an effective and sustainable method of preventing, containing, and suppressing proliferation of invasive and non-native plant species. Goats are browsers and prefer a variety of woody plants, leaves, twigs, and shrubs, which includes some of the most invasive plant species on Vancouver Island including Scotch Broom, Himalayan Blackberry and English Ivy. Goats can help clear dry bramble or vegetation that would otherwise contribute to forest fire risk. Additionally, goats can reach difficult, steep terrain that may be less accessible to mechanical equipment and are gentler ecologically when removing vegetation than herbicides and mechanical-based vegetation control measures. The allowance of this practice would also support local businesses established in the region by permitting them to be hired for vegetation removal within the Town of Ladysmith.

Challenges

Enforcement

Staff do not believe that licencing for backyard poultry should be required as it would strain existing staff capacity and resources. The proposed bylaw, if adopted, can be changed in the future should staff determine that the benefits of backyard poultry licencing necessitate its introduction. The proposed bylaw establishes requirements that must be met by those intending to keep backyard poultry, and these are enforceable with both warnings and—if necessary—fines.

Health Concerns

Public education on illness prevention measures, such as handwashing before and after handling poultry, maintaining the cleanliness of the enclosures, and obtaining veterinary care for ill birds, can help address health concerns associated with keeping backyard poultry. The proposed bylaw contains measures to address such concerns, such as requiring that backyard poultry owners follow the Canadian Food Inspection Agencies biosecurity procedures and obtain veterinary care to prevent or treat pain, suffering or disease of animals.

Wildlife Conservation

Staff have established a buffer zone around areas more suitable for wildlife habitat which disallows the keeping of backyard poultry on properties that fall within the exclusion areas. Wildlife-human conflicts should be monitored to determine the impact of the proposed bylaw

and consequential zoning amendments. If there are notable increases in bear and cougar interactions within the Town, rules allowing backyard poultry can be altered or abandoned if necessary. Other measures, such as requiring robust wildlife proof enclosures and storage containers and fencing, aim to address concerns associated with potential wildlife conflicts.

Staff have assessed the benefits and challenges associated with the proposed Animal Control Bylaw changes and understand that the introduction of animals may lead to an increase in human-wildlife conflicts. The proposed bylaw and consequential Zoning Bylaw amendments should be revisited should there be an increase in human-wildlife conflicts, dangerous wildlife sightings, and/or the destruction of wildlife. Staff also recommend that education programming, such as information pamphlets and/or a Frequently Asked Questions list, be developed and available to the public to ensure backyard poultry are adequately cared for in accordance with the proposed bylaw regulations and that necessary measures to mitigate possible wildlife conflict and health concerns. Lastly, it is important to understand that other activities that are already permitted, such as storing residential waste bins, pet food and grills outdoors can also contribute to human-wildlife conflicts if not done properly. Holistically managing all wildlife attractants through public education is essential to ensure the success of the proposed backyard poultry program.

ALTERNATIVES:

The Committee can choose to:

1. Recommend that Council not adopt the proposed Animal Control Bylaw
2. Recommend that Council consider the proposed Animal Control Bylaw for first and second readings, with amendments.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

N/A

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

N/A

CITIZEN/PUBLIC RELATIONS IMPLICATIONS:

Staff recommend that a public hearing be held for the consequential amendments to the Zoning Bylaw.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL INVOLVEMENT/IMPLICATIONS:

The Bylaw Compliance department provided input on the proposed Animal Control Bylaw, as they will be responsible for the enforcement of the proposed Bylaw. The Town of Ladysmith Parks and Public Works departments expressed interest in hiring local goat vegetation management businesses to help clear invasive plant in Town parks.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Core Infrastructure | <input type="checkbox"/> Economy |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Official Community Plan Implementation | <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership |

Waterfront Area Plan

Not Applicable

I approve the report and recommendation(s).

Allison McCarrick, Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENT(S):

- A. Draft Animal Control Bylaw
- B. Backyard Poultry Exclusion Areas
- C. Photos of Goats from a Local Vegetation Management Business

BYLAW NO. 2167

A Bylaw to provide for the management and regulations in relation
to animals in the Town of Ladysmith

The Council of the Town of Ladysmith in open meeting assembled enacts as follows:

1. Definitions

1.1 In this Bylaw, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (a) "Animal" means any member of the animal kingdom, other than a human being (as defined in the *Community Charter*).
- (b) "Backyard Poultry" "means domesticated adult hens and ducks permitted on a *Residential Parcel of Land* pursuant to section 3 of this bylaw.
- (c) "Business License" means a license to carry on business issued pursuant to "Business License Bylaw No. 1513, 2003 and all amendments thereto."
- (d) "Intermunicipal Business License" means a business licence issued by the Licence Inspector of the Town of Ladysmith or another participating Local Government to carry on business within the boundaries of any participating municipality and issued pursuant to the Intermunicipal Business License Agreement.
- (e) "Bylaw Enforcement Officer" means a Public Officer, as defined in the *Interpretation Act*, and those persons designated by the Town of Ladysmith as Bylaw Compliance Officers from time to time.
- (f) "Coop" means a shelter for *Backyard Poultry* with a solid roof, floor and walls with entries and exits that can be secured with animal proof closures during the evening.
- (g) "Hen" means a domesticated female chicken that is at least 4 months old.
- (h) "Livestock" means an Animal raised or kept for food, meat, milk or for wool or fiber, or a beast of burden, and includes, alpaca, cattle, donkeys, emus, goats, horses, llamas, mules, ostriches, sheep, or swine, including miniature pigs, and all other animals that are solely used for agricultural purposes. Livestock also includes wild animals kept in captivity for food or commodity production, including bison and ungulates.

- (i) “Pen” means a fully enclosed outdoor space for Backyard Poultry.
- (j) Residential Parcel means: A parcel zoned to permit a single-family dwelling and excludes properties zoned for agriculture or a *Farm Use* pursuant to the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* and *Agricultural Land Reserve Regulations*.
- (k) “Town” means the Town of Ladysmith.
- (l) “Wildlife” means a wild animal.
- (m) “Wrangler” means a person who transports animals to and from the work site, sets up fencing and provides 24-hour care and security for the animals.

2. General Provisions

2.1 General Provisions

- (a) A person shall not keep livestock on a *Residential Parcel* that is less than 0.81 hectares.
- (b) A person must immediately remove and lawfully dispose of any excrement deposited by an animal in their care and custody on any public property or private property not owner or occupied by the owner.
- (c) No person who has removed animal excrement may deposit the excrement into a municipal litter receptacle except where the excrement is securely contained in an impermeable bag or other impermeable container so as not to ooze, leak, or fall out, into a municipal litter receptacle.

3. Keeping of Backyard Poultry

3.1 Notwithstanding subsection 2.1(a) a person may keep Backyard Poultry on a residential parcel, subject to the following provisions:

- (a) No person shall keep Backyard Poultry within the area shown on Schedule A.
- (b) No person shall keep Backyard Poultry without the written consent of the owner of the parcel where the Backyard Poultry is to be located.
- (c) No more than six Backyard Poultry may be kept on *Residential Parcel*.
- (d) No person shall keep Backyard Poultry within a dwelling unit or on a balcony or deck.

- (e) No person shall allow Backyard Poultry outside of a Coop or Pen except to perform typical animal husbandry practices such as wing clipping and veterinary care.
- (f) Coops and Pens shall not be located:
 - i. in a front yard.
 - ii. within 1.0 metre from any property line.
 - iii. within 3.0 metres of any dwelling unit.
- (g) A Coop shall:
 - i. provide a minimum volume of 0.6 cubic metres per hen or duck;
 - ii. provide a minimum floor area of 0.37 square metres per hen or duck; and
 - iii. not exceed a maximum floor area of 10.0 square metres or volume of 30.0 cubic metres;
 - iv. not exceed a height of 3.0 metres;
 - v. provide each Hen with its own nesting box and perch that is at least fifteen (15) centimetres long, and each duck with adequate ground-level nesting space.
 - vi. be kept clean and in good repair.
- (h) A Pen shall:
 - i. provide a minimum volume of 1.0 cubic metres per hen or duck;
 - ii. have a minimum Pen area of 0.93 square metres per hen or duck;
 - iii. not exceed an area of 10.0 square metres;
 - iv. shall not exceed a height of 3.0 metres;
 - v. be fully enclosed at all sides with corrosion-resistant metal wire fencing with a minimum wire gauge of 14 and a maximum opening of 2 inches (5.08 centimeters) securely fastened to the structure with corrosion-resistant fencing staples;
 - vi. be covered with a roof wire fencing meeting the criteria under subsection v.
- (i) A Parcel on which Backyard Poultry are kept must have a continuous animal proof fence that encloses the Coop and Pen.
- (j) A Pen shall be attached to or surround the Coop so as to provide the Backyard Poultry with full and unobstructed access to enter and exit the Coop at their leisure during daylight hours.
- (k) All Backyard Poultry must be kept within a secure Coop from sunset to 7:00 a.m.

- (l) All Backyard Poultry shall be provided with adequate litter within the Coop to nest in which shall be cleaned weekly.
- (m) The owner must ensure that the Coop and Pen are situated in a way that would reasonably prevent entry by Wildlife and constructed to prevent any rodent from harbouring underneath or within it or within its walls.
- (n) No person shall keep Backyard Poultry in a cage unless for the purposes of transport of the Backyard Poultry.
- (o) Unless ordered to by an authority having jurisdiction, slaughtering Backyard Poultry is prohibited.
- (p) No person shall sell any products associated with Backyard Poultry, including manure and meat, except for the selling of eggs.
- (q) Backyard Poultry eggs shall be sold in accordance the BC Centre for Disease Control “Guidelines for the Sale of Foods at Temporary Food Markets”. In addition to the BC Centre for Disease Control guidelines, the following conditions shall be met:
 - a. The eggs must be produced on the property upon which the Backyard Poultry owner resides.
 - b. The eggs must be only for the consumption of the individual purchasing the eggs and/or that individual’s household.
- (r) The owner of Backyard Poultry shall ensure poultry food is stored and secured in vermin-proof and wildlife-proof containers, and that no more than 0.085 cubic metres (3.0 cubic feet) may be stored at a time.
- (s) The owner of Backyard Poultry shall ensure manure is stored in an enclosed vermin-proof and wildlife-proof container that does not generate excessive heat or odour, and that no more than 0.085 cubic metres (3.0 cubic feet) may be stored at a time.
- (t) A person shall not dispose of deceased Backyard Poultry other than by delivering it to a veterinarian, landfill in a sealed bag, a farm, an abattoir, or other facility with the ability to lawfully dispose of the carcass.
- (u) The owner of Backyard Poultry must follow biosecurity procedures recommended by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.
- (v) Backyard Poultry shall not be left unattended for periods of more than 12 hours.

4. Prohibition of Cruelty to Animals

4.1 No person shall keep any animal 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) Sanitary food and water receptacles;
- (c) The opportunity for periodic exercise sufficient to maintain the animal's good health;
- (d) Clean bedding material and an area maintained at a temperature warm and dry enough to prevent the animal from suffering discomfort; and
- (e) The necessary veterinary care to prevent or treat pain, suffering, or disease.

4.2 No person shall keep any animal outside for more than 3 hours in any day unless the animal is provided with a shelter that allows the animal to move freely, and stand, sit or lie in a position that:

- (a) Protects the animals from heat, cold and wetness; and
- (b) is shaded.

4.3 No person shall keep any animal confined in an enclosed space, including a motor vehicle, without sufficient ventilation to prevent the animals from suffering discomfort, heat stroke or injury.

4.4 No person shall keep any animal hitched, tied or fastened to a fixed object where a choke collar or choke chain forms part of the securing apparatus, or where a rope or cord is tied directly around the animal's neck.

4.5 No person shall keep any animal hitched, tied or fastened to a fixed object as the primary means of confinement for an extended period of time.

5. Goat Vegetation Management

5.1 Notwithstanding Section 2.1 (a) of this Bylaw, a person may keep goats on any parcel of land within the Town, on a temporary basis, for vegetation management subject to the following requirements:

- (a) Goats shall be used to clear vegetation for no more than 30 consecutive days.
- (b) For the purposes of vegetation management, the total number of goats permitted on a parcel of land is to be calculated at one (1) goat per 100.0

square metres (1076.4 square feet) of parcel area to a maximum of thirty (30) goats per parcel.

- (c) Goats must be contained within a temporary, animal proof woven wire (or similar material) fence at all times while on a work site or performing their vegetation management activities and must be cared for in a manner consistent with the requirements of the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.
- (d) Goats used for vegetation management shall not remain overnight onsite unless a Wrangler or a person living onsite has been trained and equipped to wrangle the goats is present.
- (e) Any goats remaining onsite overnight shall be kept in a portable wildlife-proof enclosed shelter, and the shelter must have a minimum floor area of 1.9 square metres (20.0 square feet) per goat and a minimum overhead clearance of 1.4 metres (4.6 feet).
- (f) Vegetation management using goats shall only be carried out by business holding a valid Business License or Intermunicipal Business License.
- (g) A business providing goat vegetation management services must obtain and maintain third party liability insurance in the amount of \$5,000,000.

6. Application

- 6.1 Any government authority or farm operations are exempt from this bylaw.

7. Enforcement

- 7.1 A Bylaw Compliance Officer for the Town may enter onto any property in accordance with the *Community Charter* to inspect and determine whether the provisions of this bylaw are being met.
- 7.2 A person must not obstruct or interfere with a Bylaw Compliance Officer who has entered onto property pursuant to Section 7.1, or other person assisting the Bylaw Compliance Officer.

8. Penalties

- 8.1 A person who contravenes this bylaw by doing an act that it forbids, or by omitting to do an act that it requires to be done, commits an offence and is liable, upon summary conviction, to the penalties prescribed by the *Offence Act*, provided that such penalty shall not exceed \$10,000 and the cost of prosecution. Each day during which there is an infraction of this Bylaw shall constitute a separate offence.

8. Repeal

8.1 “Animal and Poultry Bylaw, 1994, No. 1136” is hereby repealed.

9. Citation

9.1 This Bylaw may be cited for all purposes as “Town of Ladysmith Animal Control Bylaw 2024, No. 2167”.

READ A FIRST TIME on the _____ day of _____, 2024

READ A SECOND TIME on the _____ day of _____, 2024

READ A THIRD TIME on the _____ day of _____, 2024

ADOPTED on the _____ day of _____, 2024

Mayor (A. Stone)

Corporate Officer (_____)



