



Department of Agriculture

Plain Language Summary for Proposed *Dog Owners Act*

Department of Agriculture
Strategic Policy and Evaluation Division
Government of Prince Edward Island

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PLAIN LANGUAGE SUMMARY FOR THE PROPOSED *DOG OWNERS ACT*

The purpose of this Summary is to provide an overview of the proposed *Dog Owners Act*. The Department of Agriculture will accept comments, which will be considered when finalizing or confirming the proposed sections in the Act.

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Introduction

Prince Edward Island's current [Dog Act](#) provides for dog control across the province. The Act governs things like the fees required to own a dog, what happens if a dog bites and/or attacks a person or animal, and enforcement of the Act. The current *Dog Act* originates from 1974 and requires modernization.

In 2021, the Government of Prince Edward of Island committed to a comprehensive review of the *Dog Act*. In February 2022, Islanders were asked to provide initial comments and feedback on a first draft of a proposed new Act. One hundred fifty-three (153) comments were received over a span of four (4) weeks. Since then, the Department of Agriculture (the Department) has been completing additional policy research to update the draft. The policy research included comprehensive data analysis of initial consultation feedback received, additional evaluation of how Prince Edward Island's legislation compares to other jurisdictions, and additional literature review.

To update dog control provisions in Prince Edward Island, the Department of Agriculture is proposing a new Act, entitled the *Dog Owners Act*. This new Act would replace the existing *Dog Act*.

Summary of the Changes in the Proposed *Dog Owners Act*

The new *Dog Owners Act* will include the following Parts:

PART 1

Part 1 of the *Dog Owners Act* provides for the interpretation of terms in the Act and the administration of the Act. This Part includes a section to define enforcement officers under the Act (section 3).

PART 2

Part 2 of the *Dog Owners Act* provides for dog licensing requirements. **Under the current *Dog Act*, dog owners are required to license their dog on an annual basis.** Part 2 of the *Dog Owners Act* will retain this requirement for dog owners and will clarify who must obtain a license for their dog and when the license should be obtained (sections 4 and 5).

PART 3

Part 3 of the *Dog Owners Act* provides for dog control. In particular, the following sections and subsections are proposed at Part 3:

- a section on the prohibition of dogs at large (section 7);
- a subsection outlining lead/leash lengths that are required when a dog is in a public place (subsection 7(2)(a)); and
- a section on the process for seizing dogs that are at large (section 8).

PART 4

Part 4 of the *Dog Owners Act* provides for sections on dangerous dogs. In particular, the following sections are proposed at Part 4:

- a section outlining duties of a dog owner (section 9);

- a section outlining the procedures for seizing a dog, executing a warrant, and commencing a proceeding or laying an information (section 10);
- a section outlining proceedings in the Provincial Court (section 11); and
- section providing guidance on civil actions in the Supreme Court (section 13).

PART 5

Part 5 of the *Dog Owners Act* is a general section. In particular, the following sections are proposed at Part 5:

- a section on notice requirements (section 14);
- a section on record-keeping requirements for enforcement officers (section 15);
- a section specifying when care or treatment may be provided to a seized dog (section 16); and
- a section on offences and ticketing (section 19).

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

You can provide comments by email to:

Department of Agriculture

Email: agr-feedback@gov.pe.ca

The Department of Agriculture assumes that comments received on this Summary are not confidential unless specifically indicated. The Department may quote from or refer to your comments in whole or in part and may attribute comments provided by organizations. If you would like your comments to be treated confidentially, please request confidentiality in your response or submit your comments anonymously.

Any personal information received by the Department through this engagement process is subject to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Department of Agriculture via the contact information indicated above.

We encourage you to review the proposed *Dog Owners Act* and provide comments so that Government has an opportunity to consider all feedback prior to finalizing the bill for consideration by the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island.