

To: **Committee of the Whole**

From: **Planning Advisory Committee**

Date: **September 10, 2024**

Reference: **Recommendation from Planning Advisory Committee to limit the number of dogs permitted to overnight board based on kennel building size in the proposed Antigonish County Kennel Licensing By-law**

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**Recommendation from Planning Advisory Committee:**

That the Municipality of Antigonish County Council **adopt** the proposed Antigonish County Kennel Licensing By-law attached in this Memo dated September 10, 2024, which contains additional restrictions regarding the maximum number of dogs allowed to board overnight on the premises based on the kennel building’s size.

**Background**

On September 03, 2024, Planning Advisory Committee made the motion to recommend that Municipal Council adopt the proposed Antigonish County Kennel Licensing By-law and to investigate adding restrictions that limit the number of dogs able to board overnight based on the kennel building area.

Staff began researching recommendations from qualified organizations/individuals and best practices regarding dogs and kennel sizes. According to the Alberta SPCA (n.d), in a boarding facility each dog should have their own space or “unit” where they have room for a bed, a meal area, and space to move around. The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) of England and Whales (2024) and OmiaPaws, a Manufacturer specializing in dog products such as kennels, as well as several examples of regulations like the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) implemented and regulated by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the State of Connecticut’s Commercial Kennel Facilities - Runs, Inside Primary Enclosures and Exercise areas (2021), Dog Kennel Boarding Licensing: Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities posted by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs of the United Kingdom, all agree that a kennel should allow a dog to sit, stand at full height, lie down fully, stretch out, wag their tail, walk and turn around without impediment. These organizations and regulations additionally agree that the minimum kennel unit area would depend on factors like age, breed, size, gender. Regardless of these common points of agreement, an actual numerical definition of what is the appropriate amount of space for the welfare of the dog or the calculation thereof varies greatly.

Of the various resources examined, only one organization, a commercial kennel manufacturer (BuildingsGuide, 2024) suggested a specific limit of dogs depending on the total kennel facility size. The manufacturer suggests that a typical boarding facility’s building size should be as follows: 16-20 dogs for a thirty by forty foot (30 ft x 40 ft) facility, 20-24 dogs for a thirty by fifty foot (30 ft x 50 ft) facility, 27-32 dogs for a thirty by sixty foot (30 ft x 60 ft) facility, and 32-40 dogs for a thirty by eighty foot (30 ft x 80 ft) facility. The manufacturer’s calculation is based on their premise that “you should allow for around 50 square feet for large dogs and around 20 sq ft for smaller dogs (BuildingsGuide, 2024)”. Added to the area

for dogs, the building size also includes an administration part of the kennel. Combining the two variables results in an average per dog of 5.5 square metres per dog. Therefore, a kennel boarding ten dogs would need a building size of 55.0 square metres (Approximately 590 square feet). Similarly, a standard two car garage sized building (24 x 30) would be large enough to kennel 13 dogs rounding up to the next whole number. A larger kennel (32 x 42) would be large enough for 23 dogs.

It should be noted that the same manufacturer (Buildings Guide, 2024) expressed that there is no set standard for kennel enclosures (units/spaces) but references common sizes; “for large dogs... 5x4; for smaller breeds, a 3x3 will allow sufficient space for the dog to stand, turn around and be comfortable. On the contrary, the American Kennel Club (2019) states: *“there is not enough science yet to clearly quantify the best kennel size for dogs based on their needs and preferences. Nor is there enough science to determine how these may differ based on age, breed, size, gender, or physical status of the dog.”*

### **Conclusion**

Based on the study, the method or numerical values of total kennel facility building area per number of dogs that would lend itself best would be the guidelines put forth by the commercial kennel manufacturer, BuildingsGuide. Rather than be restrictive with the dimensions of the building with a common width of 30 feet, the dimensions could be converted into square feet, attached an area size to an amount of permitted dogs. Buildings that house, hold, board, kennel or otherwise contain a dog or dogs devoted to the commercial dog care and kennel facility shall be restricted to a maximum number of dogs in relation to kennel facility building size at a ratio of **5.5 square metres per dog**.