



Vaudreuil-Dorion

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New Regulations for Dog Owners - Public Safety Measures

Vaudreuil-Dorion, May 22, 2020 – On March 3, the Quebec government confirmed the entry into force of the Dangerous Dog Law, which provides guidelines for dog owners to comply with to ensure the protection of people. Under the Law, municipalities may also choose to pass their own rules. It is by virtue of this principle that the Vaudreuil-Dorion Municipal Council, in the interest of public safety, decided to adopt the Supplementary Regulation Concerning Dogs.

The Quebec government's by-law gives municipalities new powers over the control of dogs in their respective territories. Municipalities may now require examinations by a veterinarian if there is reasonable cause to believe that a dog's behavior poses a risk to individuals. Depending on the veterinarian's assessment, the dog could be declared potentially dangerous by the municipality in which the owner resides. Municipalities also have the right to declare a dog potentially dangerous if it has caused injuries to a person or another animal. The Quebec government even allows municipalities to order that a dog be euthanized if it has caused death or serious injury following an attack on a person.

By implementing this new regulation, the Quebec government is placing new responsibilities on dog owners. Essentially, dog owners must now register their pet with their municipality within a maximum of 30 days or three months following the birth of the dog. The municipality will then provide the new owner with a tag that must be worn by the dog at all times. The government also stipulates that a dog declared potentially dangerous must be vaccinated against rabies, as well as sterilized.

Vaudreuil-Dorion: Safety is a priority

At the regular meeting on May 19, City Council members adopted the Supplementary Regulation concerning dogs. This regulation testifies to the strong desire of the Council and the City to do everything necessary to ensure the safety of individuals.

As a result, potentially dangerous dogs will not be able to access dog run facilities, parks and playgrounds. They will wear a single-color tag as a means of identification and their owner will not be allowed to walk them in a public place without the dog wearing a basket muzzle. The owner will also be required to have liability insurance with a minimum of \$2 million in coverage.

The City now makes it mandatory to microchip dogs on its territory. More specifically, all dog owners, at the time of registration, will be required to provide the identification number for the microchip the animal is carrying. At the time of registration, owners will receive a tag that must be worn by the dog at all times. It will also be impossible to have a dog registered if the dog has been declared dangerous or potentially dangerous by another municipality.

The tag provided by the City, at a cost of \$15.00, will be valid on its territory for the duration of the dog's life. What's more, dog owners under the old regulations will not have to pay the price of the tag at the time of registration, which must be done before June 30, 2021.

In spite of this grace period, City-appointed controllers will be patrolling public spaces throughout the summer to check up on dogs and their owners.