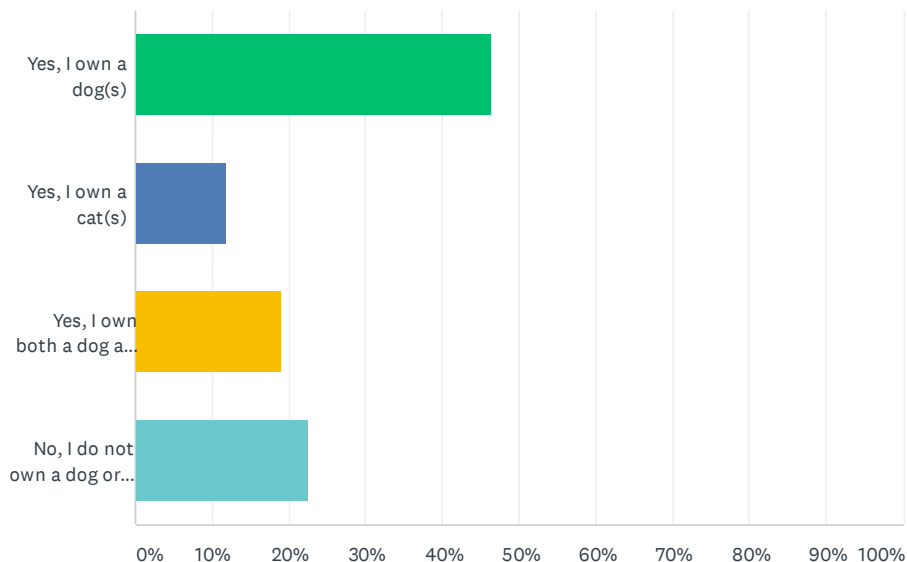


422 people completed our survey on the [current Animal Control Bylaw](#). The survey helps us to ensure the bylaw is current with today's public expectations for animal control. We understand that pets play an important role in the lives of many Sylvan Lakers; however, when creating a bylaw, we need to strike a balance - one that ensures the safety and quality of life of all residents.

Here is a summary of your thoughts, your experiences, your concerns, and offered solutions.

Q1: Do you currently own a dog(s) or cat(s)?

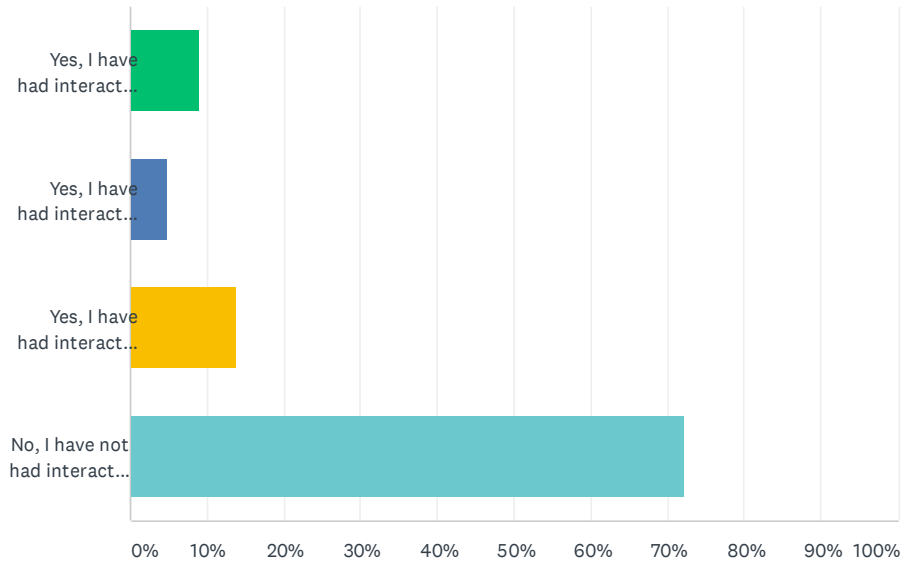
Answered: 417 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes, I own a dog(s)	46.52%	194
Yes, I own a cat(s)	11.99%	50
Yes, I own both a dog and cat	18.94%	79
No, I do not own a dog or cat	22.54%	94
TOTAL		417

Q2: Have you had any interactions with the Animal Control Bylaw over the past 24 months? If so, how was the experience?

Answered: 418 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes, I have had interaction with the Animal Control Bylaw within the last 24 months, and the experience was above satisfactory.	9.09%	38
Yes, I have had interaction with the Animal Control Bylaw within the last 24 months, and the experience was just satisfactory.	4.78%	20
Yes, I have had interaction with the Animal Control Bylaw within the last 24 months, and the experience was less than satisfactory.	13.88%	58
No, I have not had interaction with the Animal Control Bylaw within the last 24 months.	72.25%	302
TOTAL		418

Q3: Tell us about your interaction with the Animal Control Bylaw. A large majority of respondents have no recent experience with our Animal Control Bylaw; however, highlights include:

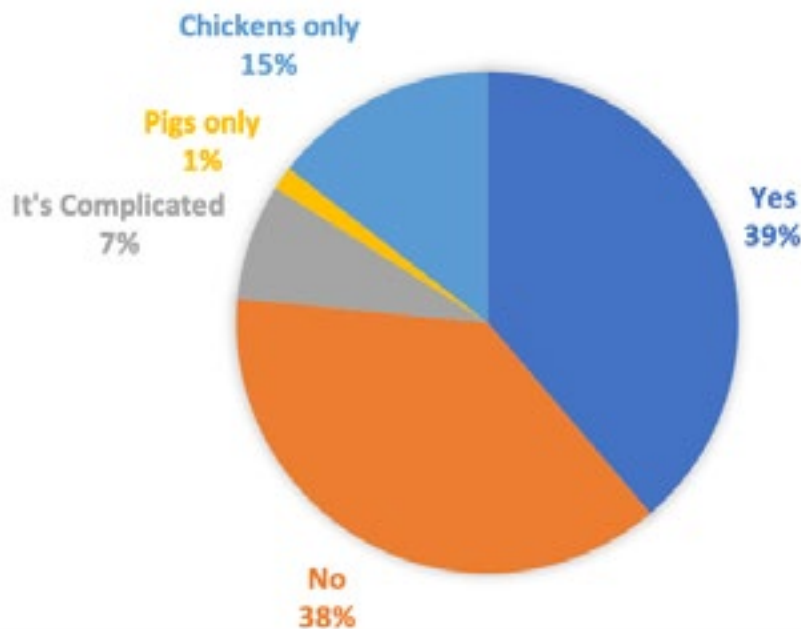
- Fine or calling bylaw often does not resolve the issue
- Bylaw is unable to mitigate neighbour disputes
- Unequal treatment of dogs-at-large vs cats-at-large calls; cats-at-large are seemingly not perceived as an issue by Bylaw
- Officers should not be able to employ "their discretion" – bylaw should be clear, and they should follow accordingly
- Officers were polite and efficient
- Animal Services should do a better job posting lost and found cats online
- Inconsistent approach to enforcement

Q4: The Town of Sylvan Lake currently does not permit “livestock” within town limits; the definition of “livestock” includes animals such as pot-bellied pits, and chickens. Should the Town of Sylvan Lake consider allowing (within regulations), animals such as chickens or potbelly pigs in Town - why or why not?

Highlights include:

- Those that are against chickens and/or pigs indicate that we may be unable to enforce the added workload, given cats and dogs remain issues within the community
- Those that are against chickens and/or pigs indicate that smell, noise, unsightliness, and uneducated/irresponsible owners are a concern
- Many respondents indicated that there should be a limit to a handful of hens, and no roosters permitted
- Many respondents indicated that access to a free source of food is a positive to allowing chickens
- Many respondents indicated that a limit per neighbourhood should be considered
- Many respondents indicated that some level of education/regulation over the treatment and handling of chickens is required
- Some respondents indicated a concern for chickens and/or pigs-at-large

SHOULD WE RECONSIDER CHICKENS/SMALL PIGS?

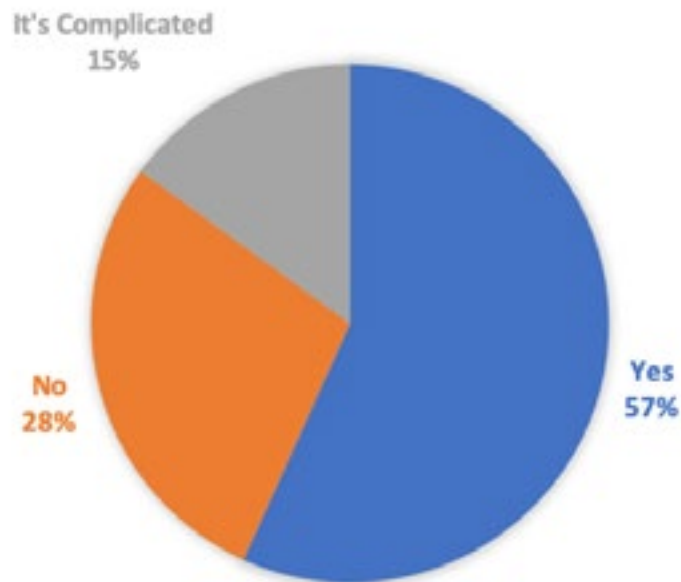


Q5: The Town of Sylvan Lake currently classifies “honey bees” as a pest, which means it is unlawful to keep small honey bee hives within town. Should the Town of Sylvan Lake consider allowing (within regulations), honey bee-keeping within the community - why or why not?

Highlights include:

- Many respondents in favour indicated a need for pollinators, sustainable access to food, and “saving the species”, as reasons in favour
- Many respondents against indicated health concerns, particularly allergies to bee stings
- Many respondents indicated a need to regulate the number of approved hives, approved bees per hive, and ensuring keepers are approved because they are educated and proficient in bee keeping
- Some respondents indicated some community hives may be a more realistic solution

WHAT ABOUT HONEY BEE KEEPING?



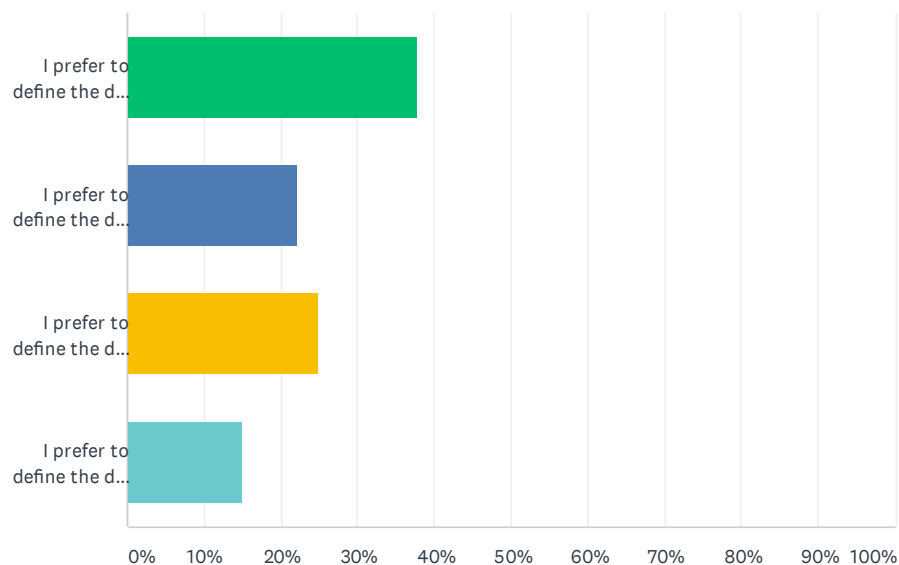
Q6: The Town of Sylvan Lake currently defines a “Vicious Dog” as “A dog that

- Has attacked a Person;
- Has bitten, threatened, or chased any Animal, bicycle, or vehicle;
- Has chased or threatened a Person;
- Has created the reasonable apprehension of a threat to a Person;
- Has caused damage to, or destroyed, any public or private property;
- Has inflicted a serious wound upon a Person or any other Animal; and/or
- Has attacked, harassed or caused injury to an Animal.

How would you prefer we define such behaviour? Is there a better way of defining the dog? Summary Provided; however, participants shared “other” ideas to label what is currently known as a “vicious dog.” Highlights include:

- Out of control
- Reactive
- Potentially (aggressive/ dangerous/etc)
- Problematic
- At-risk
- Nuisance

Answered: 418 Skipped: 2

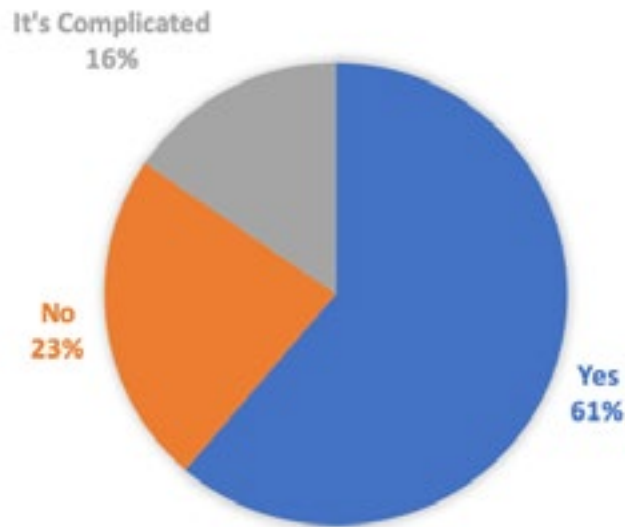


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I prefer to define the dog as "aggressive"	37.80%	158
I prefer to define the dog as "dangerous"	22.25%	93
I prefer to define the dog as "vicious"	24.88%	104
I prefer to define the dog with another term, which is....	15.07%	63
TOTAL		418

Q7: In our current bylaw, once a dog is declared as “Vicious”, there is no process in place to have that dog re-evaluated after a period of time, in order to have the Vicious Dog designation removed. Do you feel the Bylaw should allow for a dog declared Vicious to have the ability to be re-evaluated after a specified time period to have the Vicious Dog designation removed - why or why not? Highlights include:

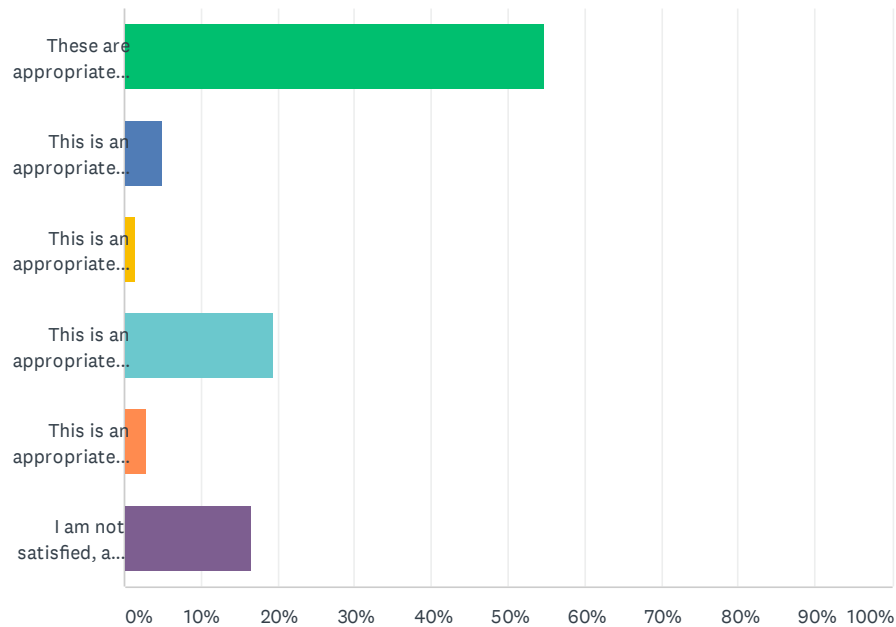
- Most respondents that answered “yes”, indicated that the re-evaluation should be done at the discretion of a professional (not a bylaw officer)
- Some respondents indicated that any re-evaluation should be done at the owner’s expense
- Some respondents shared concerns that while a dog can and may change, the ownership of that animal may not necessarily change, and thus continue to provide an unhealthy home environment
- Some respondents were concerned with the process involved in declaring a dog vicious; what were the circumstances, and who performs the evaluation?

REEVALUTATION FOR VICIOUS DOGS



Q8: We currently do not permit dogs within the play areas of playgrounds and/or sport fields (for example within the sandy area of a play structure, or the out-field of a ball diamond). What do you think of these restrictions? Summary provided:

Answered: 418 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
These are appropriate restrictions, and I am satisfied	54.78%	229
This is an appropriate restriction with respects to playgrounds, but I'd like more restrictions with respects to sport fields	5.02%	21
This is an appropriate restriction with respects to sport fields, but I'd like more restrictions with respects to playgrounds	1.44%	6
This is an appropriate restriction with respects to playgrounds, but I'd like less restrictions with respects to sport fields	19.38%	81
This is an appropriate restriction with respects to sport fields, but I'd like less restrictions with respects to playgrounds	2.87%	12
I am not satisfied, and would like to see fewer restrictions overall	16.51%	69
TOTAL		418

Q9: Share one or two of your top concerns, as they relate to Animal Control?

Trending topics include:

- Unleashed dogs
- Cats-at-large (this is a major one)
- More enforcement and more consequences for those that do not pick up after their dog
- Allowing dogs at the beach – particularly, could there be an area where leashed dogs are permitted to sit on the grass with their owners
- Enforcing dogs at the beach, as people still bring their dogs and there is no enforcement
- The feasibility of managing barking dogs – it appears it's unenforceable or at least very difficult to do so, and neighbours are frustrated
- Concerns that Bylaw Officers are able to use their discretion on calls
- Availability of officers
- More off leash dog areas – possibly water access

Q10: If you identified any Animal Control concerns in Q9, do you have any ideas for a solution to address these concerns for you? Trending solutions include:

- Heavier fines
- More education
- More officers specific to Animal Control
- Clearer more accessible (in terms of language) bylaw, so the public can properly understand their roles, as well as eliminate potential for officers to use discretion
- More patrolling officers
- Simple solutions to bylaw complaints
- Access to the beach