

LA ANIMAL SHELTER FACTS

DID YOU KNOW:

1. **Bylaws and Fees** - Impound fees for dogs found roaming in the town of Amherst are set by the Town **NOT** the LA Animal Shelter's management, staff or volunteers. Town bylaws, as voted on by town council to set fees etc.
2. **Licensed Dogs** - Impound fees for licensed dogs are \$30 for the 1st offence, \$70 for the 2nd offence, \$100 if your dog is picked up a third time.
3. **Unlicensed Dogs** - Impound fee for **unlicensed dogs** is \$100 for a first offence.
4. **Money** - Yes, the shelter does receive the money from impound fees, but since this happens approx. 10 times a year, this isn't a lucrative money making venture.
5. **Lost Dogs** - Shelter employees **DO NOT** seek out animals or bring them in. Lost or roaming dogs are brought to the shelter by animal control, Police, or members of the public. The shelter is considered a safe space or a holding area.
6. **Health Assessments** – Health assessments are conducted on impounded dogs if they are found to be not vaccinated for rabies, or are in poor condition (ie: fleas, malnourished, injured or sick.) This assessment is done by the Amherst Veterinary Hospital. Veterinary fees must be paid by the owner, including any urgent medications or procedures the animal may need. In some cases the SPCA (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) may be notified.
7. **Boarding fees** - For impounded dogs the fee is \$15.00 per day or part of a calendar day and includes food. Private boarding facilities charge \$20.00 per day and does not include food.
8. **Dogs will not be released until:**
 - a. The shelter is provided with proof the animal is licensed (town of Amherst only requires licenses)
 - b. There is verification they have an up to date rabies shot,
 - c. All fees (impoundment, boarding) and medical expenses are paid
9. **Unclaimed Dogs** - If not claimed after 72 hours the animal becomes eligible for adoption. The shelter keeps dogs a minimum of 7 days before they are available to be adopted; this is in order to conduct a behavioural assessment.
10. **Benefit of Licensing your Dog** - You will pay a lower fee. The shelter can identify owner by tag number and contact you. If your dog is impounded on the weekend you are only charged one day boarding fee. If your dog is missing your first three calls should be to your local vet clinic, the radio (or post on social media) and the shelter at 902-661-PAWS during operating hours from 8:30 am to 4pm (after hours please leave a message

or message us on Facebook.)

11. Recent Problems Experienced:

- a. Misinformation posted on social media.
- b. Verbal abuse/ aggressive behaviour towards shelter staff.

Please note: The LA Animal Shelter Board will take the action necessary to protect staff including having legal notice served prohibiting individuals from attending at the shelter.

12. **Facility Size** - The LA Animal Shelter can only house up to 12 dogs and a maximum of 34 cats safely. Over 125 animals are adopted out on an annual basis to loving homes. Our animals come from all over Cumberland County and beyond. Some are owner surrenders while others are victims of neglect, abandonment or abuse.
13. **Our Budget.** The shelter employs two full-time staff, casual employees for weekends and one night check employee. Volunteers (including board members) are not paid for the services they provide. Costs such as salaries, medical procedures (spay/neuter, prescriptions, surgeries, injections etc.) and animal food, supplies, heat, lights, renovations/repairs, snow removal, lawn maintenance etc. are paid out of the shelter's operating budget. The town and municipality cover the shelter's operating costs for three months out of the year. The other months the shelter relies on donations, adoption fees, and fundraisers to pay the bills.
14. **Need For Volunteers.** The shelter is always happy to have people come out to help with the cleaning, to do yard work and/or repairs or to socialize the dogs and cats.
15. **No Kill Policy** – The shelter will only euthanize an animal when it has been deemed to be aggressive, dangerous or suffering and veterinary treatment is no longer an option.