



ROCKY VIEW COUNTY

WHAT WE HEARD **REPORT**

Proposed Kennel Land Use Bylaw Amendments

ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

Rocky View County is home to 21 operating kennels. These local businesses offer essential pet care services to residents, including off-leash play areas, overnight boarding, daycare, breeding, training, and educational classes.

Rocky View County is considering implementing rules and regulations around kennel operations within the County as part of the Development Permit process. The potential regulations aim to provide clarity and consistency for new kennel applicants.

To ensure regulations meet the needs of County residents and kennel operators, the County embarked on public engagement from April 23 to May 14, primarily through a project page and online survey.

Engagement focused on the following themes:

- Learning from current operators how they manage noise, outdoor time, and waste.
- Learning from neighbours of kennel operations about their experience living near a kennel.
- Understanding the priorities of all participants when it comes to proposed regulations.

Following engagement, proposed rules and regulations will be presented to Council by the project team at a public hearing on June 11.

For details on how to participate in a public hearing, please visit rockyview.ca/public-notices.

Following the public hearing, updates will be provided on the project page at engage.rockyview.ca.



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Approximately 500 letters were sent to kennel operators and the neighbours of kennel operators, inviting them to provide feedback.

Residents who use kennels were also invited to share their views through social media and the County e-newsletter.

In total, 39 participants gave feedback through an online survey, two gave input through phone calls, and one resident shared a letter.

All community feedback gathered is summarized in this report and will be considered by the project team to help draft recommendations on future rules and regulations for kennels in the County.

Alongside public feedback, the project team will consider:

- Research on regulations in other municipalities.
- The effectiveness of the new rules and regulations.
- The flexibility of the new rules and regulations.
- Existing resources and future requirements.

500

Letters were sent to kennel operators and neighbours, inviting them to engage

KEY FINDINGS

OPERATORS

We asked kennel operators what they would like the County to consider when creating rules and regulations. Eleven kennel operators shared feedback, and the critical themes gathered are below.

Consider Regulatory Impacts:

Concerns were raised about excessive regulatory control on small businesses. Operators stressed the need for balanced regulations that do not impose undue financial burdens.

Existing Bylaws are Sufficient: Some operators feel existing bylaws are sufficient to handle concerns on a case-by-case basis. It was noted that additional regulations could increase taxes or require more County staff to monitor new regulations.

Different Regulations Needed: Some operators requested different rules for different types of dog services, such as vet services, breeders, and overnight kennels — rather than a blanket designation for all dog-related businesses.

Manage Neighbouring Dogs:

Ensuring that neighbouring properties keep their dogs on their property and under control was highlighted as necessary.

Consider Unique Situations: Unique setups, such as private off-leash dog parks, may require a different approach due to differences in operation compared to more typical kennel operations.

Higher Fencing: The allowance of fencing over six feet was requested to ensure the containment of certain dog breeds that can jump lower fences.



KEY FINDINGS

NEIGHBOURS

We asked neighbours of kennel operations what they would like the County to consider when creating rules and regulations. Thirty-one participants shared feedback, and the critical themes gathered are below.

Noise Considerations: Many participants expressed concerns about barking, sharing that constant noise can disturb the peace, affect sleep, and reduce the quality of life.

Fencing and Security: Participants shared their concerns about having adequate measures to prevent escapes and ensure loose dogs do not pose a threat to the community.

Increased Traffic: Participants want the county to consider increased traffic from kennel staff, pet owners, and service vehicles, which could lead to congestion.

Support for Operators: Participants shared their appreciation for well-run kennels and noted that operators should be made to feel valuable and welcome.

Proper Waste Management: Waste management was noted by participants to ensure animal waste is handled properly with consideration to the surrounding environment.

Other Suggestions included:

- Clear, enforceable rules for noise control.
- Distance from residential areas.
- Ensuring the health and safety of animals.
- Different regulations for different services.
- Regular inspections and penalties for noncompliance.
- Regulations are not necessary.



KEY FINDINGS

RESIDENTS

THREE KENNEL CUSTOMERS SHARED THE FOLLOWING PRIORITIES FOR THE COUNTY TO CONSIDER.

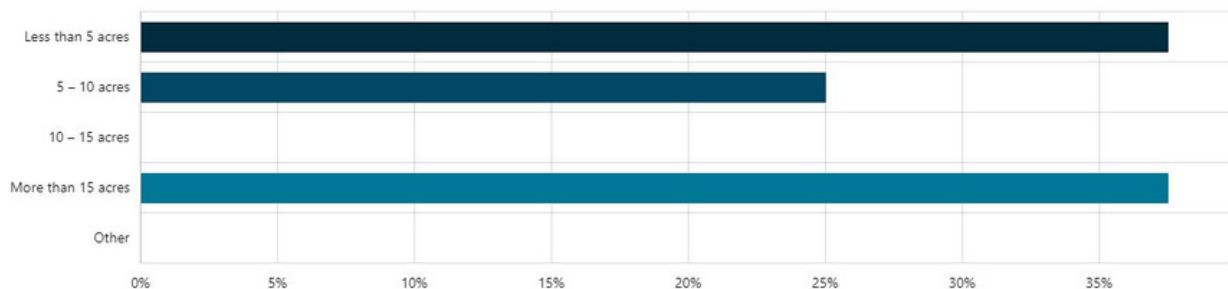
- Ensure pets using kennels have proof of current vaccines.
- Consider the number of pets in care and the staff ratio.
- Keep dogs safe and secure from wildlife and the elements.
- Make sure dogs' needs are put first.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

OPERATORS

1. How many acres does your facility require to run efficiently and effectively?

Eight operators responded to this question, with a wide range of sizes in use.

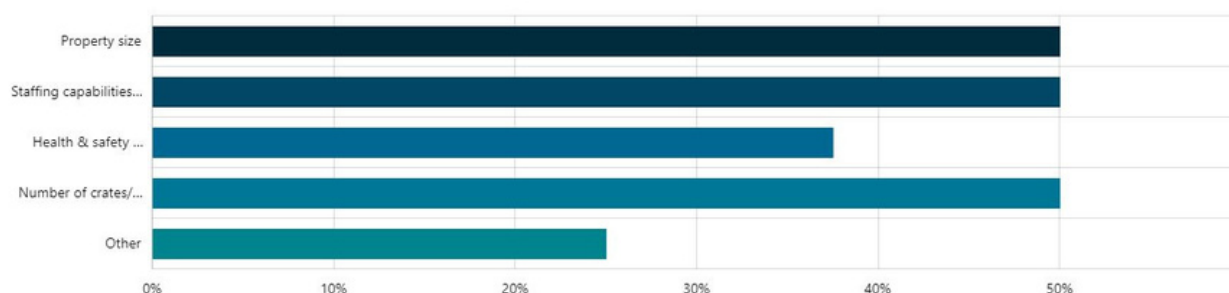


2. What times throughout the day, if any, do you restrict animals from the outdoors? Please specify.

Seven operators responded to this question. A significant portion of respondents, 28%, said dogs are outside at 8 a.m. and inside at 8 p.m. Other responses included dogs being inside at 9 p.m., dogs being outdoors all the time (wolf sanctuary) and dogs being allowed outside as needed.

3. What factors do you consider when determining the number of animals you can have at your facility? Please select all that apply.

Eight kennel operators responded to this question and shared that property size, staffing capabilities and resources, and the number of crates or available facility space are all equally important. Health and safety considerations are also important, and 25% of respondents mentioned other factors not specified in the survey.

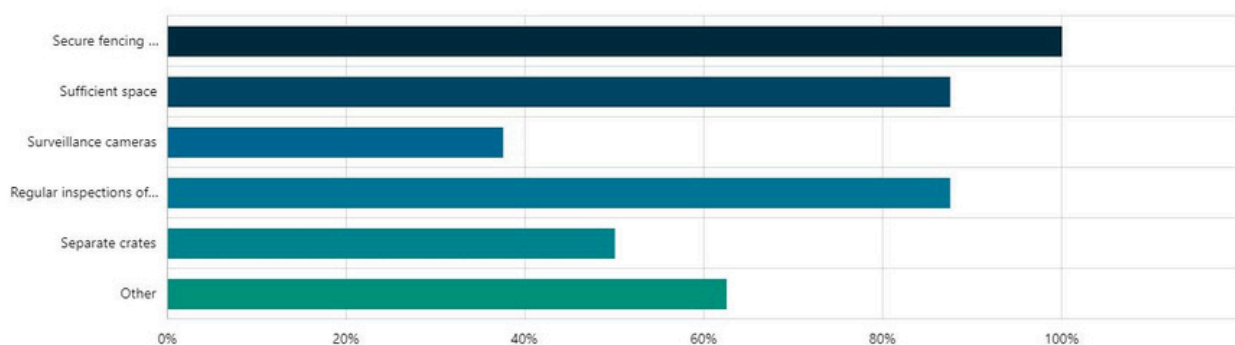


4. How do you manage waste disposal from your facility? Please specify.

Eight kennel operators responded to this question. The majority (85%) take the waste to a transfer site. Other methods included natural decomposition and composting. One operator requested recommendations from the county on waste disposal practices.

5. What measures do you take to ensure that animals are safe and secure? Please select all that apply.

Eight kennel operators responded to this question and prioritized the measures they use to ensure the safety and security of animals.



6. What measures do you take to ensure the level of noise is not disruptive to your neighbours?

Eight kennel operators responded to this question and shared various strategies to minimize noise disruption for neighbours. Most commonly, they provide enrichment activities to keep animals occupied and ensure sufficient distance from neighbours. Over 60% of respondents regularly monitor and address excessive barking or noise. Other measures include quiet hours for the animals and soundproofing kennel buildings.

7. How do you manage parking and traffic flow from your customers, staff, and visitors at your kennel?

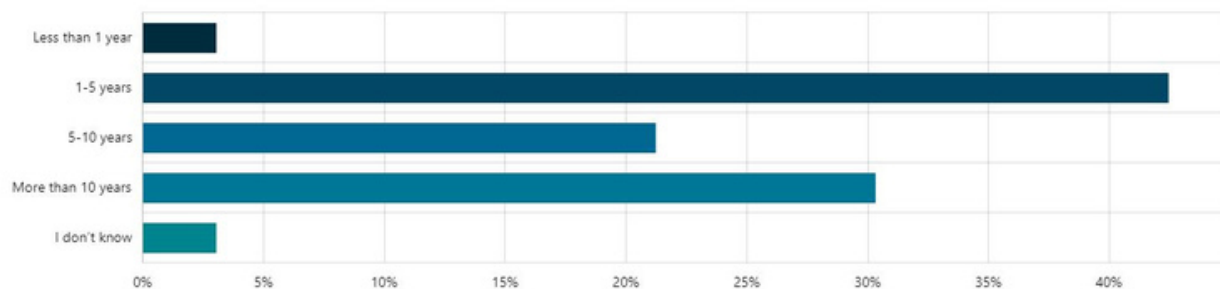
Eight kennel operators responded to this question, and 85% said they manage parking and traffic flow primarily by providing a designated parking area. Other measures include staggered drop-offs and pick-ups, signage to guide guests, and the use of private roads.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

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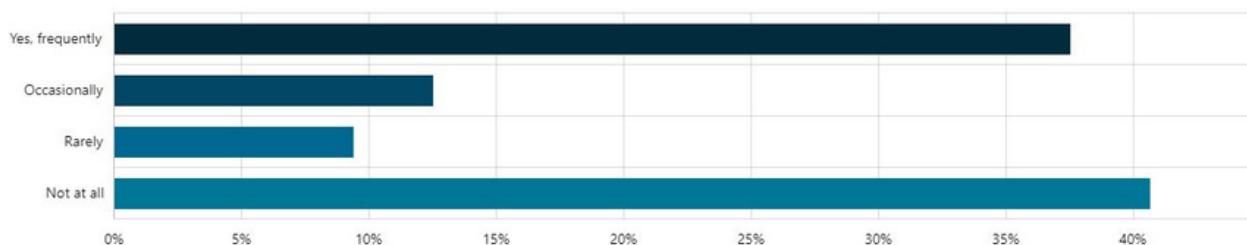
1. How long have you lived as a neighbour to the kennel operation?

Thirty-three participants answered this question, with the most living one to five years near a kennel. Almost all respondents (97%) live less than five kilometres in proximity to an operating kennel.



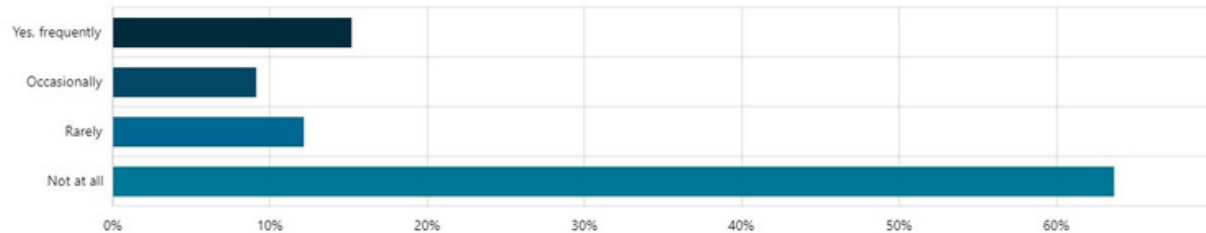
2. Do you have concerns about the noise generated by your neighbouring kennel operation?

Thirty-two participants answered this question, with most (40%) reporting no noise concerns. 38% reported frequent concerns, 13% reported occasional issues, and 9% shared they rarely experienced concerns around noise generated by their nearby kennel.



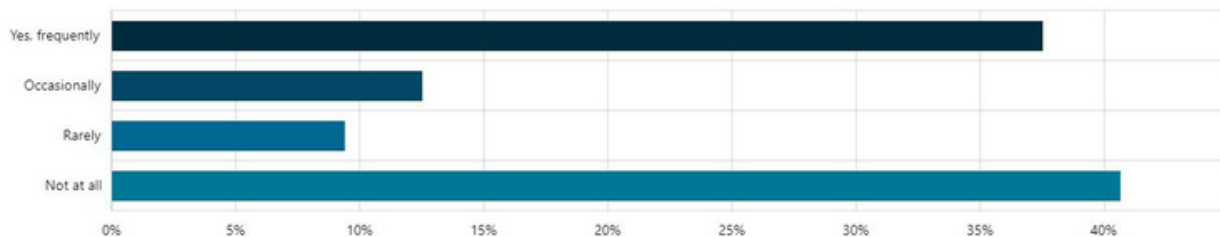
3. Do you have concerns with the odour generated by your neighbouring kennel operation?

Thirty-three neighbours answered this question, and most (64%) reported no concerns. Alternatively, 15% shared they have frequent problems with odour issues.



4. Do you have concerns about an increase in traffic generated by your neighbouring kennel operation?

Thirty-three neighbours answered this question, and most (45%) reported no concerns. Meanwhile, 33% shared they have frequent concerns with increased traffic due to their proximity to a kennel.





THANK YOU

Thank you to all who took the time to share their views, thoughts, and concerns on potential new regulations and rules for kennels in Rocky View County.

The participation of our community is vital to developing balanced and effective regulations. We encouraged all interested residents to stay informed on this project's progress by visiting engage.rockyview.ca for updates.