

HRM Parks Healthy Dog Friendly Areas (HDFAs) Strategy Regulations

Note: The following draft regulations have been adapted from the Revised Permit Plan For Chicago Parks District Dog Friendly Areas dated: December 1, 2005

- In designated parks, HRM will operate HDFAs in compliance with this strategy and where possible, in cooperation with community-based HDFA support groups.
- At entrances to HDFA parks, HRM will post a sign containing the rules and procedures that any person bringing a dog into a HDFA must follow. Such sign shall contain at least the following messages:
 - Only dogs that are healthy, fully immunized and dewormed may use this area.
 - Owners or other responsible persons must ensure that their dogs have HRM HDFA park access and dog licence registration tags for the current season on their dog collars.
 - Owners are legally responsible for their dogs and any injuries caused by their dogs;
 - Owners or other responsible persons must remain within 10 metres of their dogs, and dogs must be watched and under the control of their owner at all times;
 - Dogs must be leashed prior to entering and upon leaving the HDFA.
 - If a fenced HDFA is provided, gates to the HDFA must remain closed at all times;
 - Owners or other responsible persons must immediately clean up after their dogs.
 - Dogs with a known history of, or who exhibit, dangerous behaviour are prohibited;
 - In a fenced HDFA, children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult;
 - Only three dogs per owner or other responsible person are allowed;
 - Puppies under four months old are prohibited.
 - Female dogs in heat are prohibited.
 - Failure to have valid park access and dog licence registration tags, or the violation of these rules and procedures may result in the

commission of a misdemeanour subject to a fine up to \$500. (*HRM By-law D-100*).

- HRM shall also post a sign at each HDFA explaining how park access tags and dog licence registration tags allowing dogs to enter an HDFA may be obtained.
- Each HDFA must have a least one leak-proof container available for storage of waste materials before disposal to control vermin and insects. These containers shall be emptied periodically and maintained in a sanitary condition.
- Park access tags for dogs using HDFAs will be issued by licensed veterinarians in HRM who participate in the park access tag plan.
- HRM will work with the Nova Scotia Veterinary Association to obtain the cooperation of all licensed veterinarians in HRM.
- HRM will have a list of cooperating veterinarians available at its web site and at other locations.
- HRM will make all documents and tags necessary to complete the park access tag application process available to all cooperating veterinarians.
- The park access tag application process shall consist of three documents:
 - A park access tag application form;
 - A statement of HDFA Rules And Procedures, as well as a signed copy to show that it has been read.
- HRM will work with cooperating veterinarians to ensure the smooth functioning of the park access tag process.
- In addition to making all necessary documents available to cooperating veterinarians, HRM will sell park access tags to cooperating veterinarians for a (\$xx) charge.
- After processing costs, HRM shall contribute any remaining funds from park access tag revenues to a reserve fund dedicated to the development and maintenance of HDFAs.
- When issuing the tags, the cooperating veterinarians may apply a surcharge agreed to by HRM and cooperating veterinarians to cover the cost of the tags and of processing park access tags.
- Once any cooperating veterinarian has issued a park access tag for any dog, the veterinarian shall provide HRM with a copy of the completed application and an applicant-signed copy of the HDFA Rules And Procedures to show that it has been read.
- Veterinarians will issue park access tags pursuant to the following requirements:
 - To obtain a park access tag, the dog's owner or other person responsible for each dog for which a tag is sought must do the following:
 - Show proof that the dog has a current HRM dog licence registration tag;

- Provide written proof showing that a licensed veterinarian has vaccinated each dog for the following:
 - rabies;
 - distemper;
 - hepatitis;
 - parainfluenza;
 - parvovirus;
 - bordetella vaccine (for Kennel Cough).
- The owner or other responsible person must show that each dog has had a faecal sample tested within 9 months before applying for a park access tag.
- HRM will work to implement the HRM Parks Healthy Dog Friendly Areas (HDFAs) Strategy for the operation of HDFAs through education of the public and where necessary, through by-law enforcement.
- While HRM lifeguard and parks staff do not have the authority under By-law D-100 to issue citations, they will request offenders to leave HDFAs and cooperate with by-law officers to enforce By-law D-100.
- HRM will work with HRM employees and HDFFA support groups to encourage compliance with the HRM Parks Healthy Dog Friendly Areas (HDFAs) Strategy:
 - HRM employees and representatives from local HDFFA support groups will be encouraged to educate and to remind HDFFA users about HDFFA Rules And Procedures.
 - Representatives from local HDFFA support groups will be encouraged to report persons who bring dogs without park access tags into HDFAs and fail to leave when asked.
 - HRM employees will be responsible to report persons who bring dogs without park access tags into HDFAs and fail to leave when asked.
- HRM will work to educate the public about the HRM Parks Healthy Dog Friendly Areas (HDFAs) Strategy and the importance of making HDFAs safe and enjoyable places for dogs and their people.