

## **GROUNDSWELL PET POLICY**

### **Background Principles**

Animals are an important element of a healthy balanced community and people have a right to enjoy animals within our community. We welcome the inclusion of animals and value them as teachers and companions.

Animals have a right to enjoy living in our community. All animals in Groundswell are to be treated humanely, according to the law and Groundswell community standards.

People have a right to live in our community without being made uncomfortable and/or endangered by animals.

### **General Policy**

All pets that go outdoors and their owners are covered by this policy. The behaviour of pets that are kept exclusively indoors are outside the scope of this policy.

All pet owners are responsible for their pet's behaviour.

All pet owners are automatically members of the Pet Team.

Any behaviour by pets that concerns Groundswell residents should first be discussed with the owner. If the problem is not resolved, the individual can ask for a meeting of the Pet Team. Only if the problem is not resolved at this stage should it be brought to the community.

Groundswellers, who plan to get a new pet covered by this policy, are asked to give the Pet Team one month's notice so the Team and the new owner can discuss / problem-solve cooperatively how the pet will be integrated into the community.

New pets moving in to the community will be introduced to residents at the soonest possible community meeting.

Prospective residents will be asked about their pets at their 'Expectations meeting' to make sure that Groundswell is a good fit for their pets and they have a understanding of standards of animal behavior that will be expected in the village.

## **GROUNDSWELL PET POLICY (CONTINUED)**

### **Dog Policy**

All dogs are expected to prove themselves as trustworthy to earn the privilege to be off leash. The owner may make a request of the community meeting to have their dog off leash after two months' residency here. This privilege may be revoked temporarily or permanently by the Pet Team should a dog's trustworthiness be challenged.

Dogs belonging to visitors must be kept supervised, on-leash at all times when outdoors.

All dog owners will pick up dog poo, whether it is from their dog or not.

### **Cat Policy**

People are welcome to move here even if they have a cat that will continue to go outside. As a courtesy to gardeners and farmers, it would be appreciated if they would offer their cat an outside litter box and try to entice the cat to use it. We recognize that this might fail but that the effort is worthwhile anyhow.

When people get new cats, we would encourage them to consider the SPCA's recommendation to keep cats indoors. This recommendation also recognizes that not every cat can be an indoor cat, but provides a number of good reasons for trying.