



## Abandonment of Companion Animals

### Position

Calgary Humane Society unequivocally denounces the abandonment of any animal. Abandonment is an offense under the Animal Protection Act of Alberta and federal animal welfare legislation. Calgary Humane Society enforces these laws and advocates for their consistent application.

### Rationale

Abandoning an animal is a serious breach of the trust and dependence that companion animals place in their caregivers. These animals are not equipped to survive on their own and often suffer tremendously—facing starvation, exposure, injury, and predation. Many experience prolonged distress before passing away.

Beyond the individual suffering, abandonment has broader community impacts. Stray animals may pose safety risks, contribute to overpopulation, and spread disease. Uncontrolled breeding among abandoned pets leads to large populations of unwanted animals, placing further strain on community resources.

Importantly, abandonment is entirely preventable. Pet owners who can no longer care for their animals have humane options available. Calgary Humane Society offers Community Services programs that provide resources and outreach support to help pet owners in crisis keep their animals safe and cared for. When necessary, Calgary Humane Society accepts all animals in need through surrender services.

### References

[Animal Protection Act of Alberta](#)