

RM of Edenwold No. 158

Municipal Wildlife Bounty Policy



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| Issuing Department: | Administration | Contact: | Karen Zaharia |
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Municipal Wildlife Bounty Policy

Contents

| | | |
|----|---------------------------------------|----|
| 1. | Purpose..... | 3 |
| 2. | Authority | 3 |
| 3. | Scope..... | 3 |
| 4. | Definitions..... | 3 |
| 5. | Roles and Responsibilities..... | 4 |
| 6. | Policies and Conditions | 5 |
| 7. | Procedures | 6 |
| 8. | Appendixes and Further Resources..... | 7 |
| | Appendix A: Bounty Rates | i |
| 9. | References..... | ii |



Municipal Wildlife Bounty Policy

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish a consistent and transparent framework for the administration of municipal wildlife bounty programs within the Rural Municipality of Edenwold No. 158 (RM). Wildlife such as coyotes, beavers, and other nuisance species can pose risks to municipal infrastructure, agricultural operations, livestock, and public safety.

A structured bounty program supports responsible wildlife management through clear eligibility, documentation, and claim procedures.

This policy aims to:

- a. Reduce problem wildlife populations to protect infrastructure, agricultural lands, and public safety.
- b. Provide clear guidelines for program participation, including harvesting requirements, claim procedures, and documentation.
- c. Clarify the responsibilities of the RM, the designated RM Liaison, and participating hunters and trappers.
- d. Ensure transparent, fair, and consistent processing of bounty claims.
- e. Support the outcome of Complete Municipality as outlined in the RM's Strategic Plan.
- f. Allow for additional eligible species to be added by future Council resolution (e.g., Richardson ground squirrels).
- g. Confirm the RM's participation in SARM's Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (SCAP) programs, including the Beaver Control Program (SCAP-BCP) and Gopher Control Program (SCAP-GCP), where applicable.

2. Authority

This policy is established under the authority of *The Municipalities Act*, which permits municipalities to undertake measures that support resident safety, property protection, and effective infrastructure management.

Council may add eligible species, adjust bounty rates, or update program parameters by resolution.

3. Scope

This policy applies to all municipal wildlife bounty programs approved by Council and to any eligible species designated for bounty payment. It governs the participation of hunters and trappers operating within the RM, and outlines the overarching framework for verifying, approving, and issuing bounty payments.

4. Definitions

- a. **Bounty:** A payment issued by the RM to a hunter or trapper for harvesting an eligible wildlife species, in the amount approved by Council.
- b. **Claimant:** An individual who lawfully harvests eligible wildlife within the RM and submits a claim for bounty payment.



Municipal Wildlife Bounty Policy

- c. **Eligible Species:** Wildlife species approved by Council resolution for inclusion in a municipal bounty program. Eligible species are listed in Appendix A.
- d. **Harvested Proof:** The species-specific verification part required to confirm each animal harvested.
- e. **Landowner Permission:** Consent given by the owner or authorized occupant of private land permitting the claimant to harvest wildlife on that land.
- f. **Municipal Wildlife Bounty Claim Form:** The official form provided exclusively by the RM Liaison and used to record claimant information, land locations, harvested proof, and declarations required for bounty payment.
- g. **RM Liaison:** The individual appointed by Council to coordinate the wildlife bounty program, including distributing claim forms, verifying harvested proof, and forwarding verified claims to the Municipal Office.
- h. **Municipal Office:** The administration of the RM responsible for issuing bounty payments, maintaining records, and performing administrative duties related to the bounty program.
- i. **Verification:** The process conducted by the RM Liaison to confirm the species, quantity, location, and compliance of all bounty submissions.

5. Roles and Responsibilities

- a. Roles of municipality via Council:
 - i. Approving eligible species and setting bounty rates.
 - ii. Appointing the RM Liaison.
 - iii. Updating this policy or program parameters as required.
- b. Roles of the municipality via RM Liaison
 - i. Acting as the primary contact for program participants.
 - ii. Providing claim forms to participants.
 - iii. Verifying harvested proof and claim details.
 - iv. Disposal of harvested proof, following all applicable laws and regulations.
 - v. Forwarding verified claims to the Municipal Office.
- c. Roles of the municipality via Administration
 - i. Receiving verified claim forms.
 - ii. Issuing bounty payments in accordance with Council-approved rates.
 - iii. Maintaining accurate records and data related to bounty programs.
 - iv. Completing any administrative reporting required for external programs the RM participates in.



Municipal Wildlife Bounty Policy

d. Roles of Hunters and Trappers

Hunters and trappers participating in the program are responsible for:

- i. Complying with provincial legislation, RM bylaws, and licensing requirements.
- ii. Obtaining landowner permission.
- iii. Providing accurate information on the claim form and supplying required harvested proof.
- iv. Ensuring all wildlife submitted was harvested within the RM.

e. Roles of Landowners

Landowners on whose property wildlife is harvested are responsible for:

- i. Granting permission to hunters or trappers on their land.
- ii. Providing contact information for verification purposes.

f. Roles of SARM (where applicable)

Where the RM participates in SCAP Wildlife Control Programs, SARM is responsible for:

- i. Reviewing and processing eligible reimbursement submissions.
- ii. Issuing approved reimbursements to the RM according to program guidelines.
- iii. Communicating program requirements and changes to participating municipalities.

6. Policies and Conditions

The following conditions apply to all municipal wildlife bounty programs administered under this policy:

- a. Only species designated by Council resolution are eligible for bounty payment.
- b. All harvesting must comply with provincial legislation, RM bylaws, and required permits.
- c. Wildlife must be harvested within the RM boundaries.
- d. Landowner permission is required for harvesting on private land.
- e. Claimants must obtain the Municipal Wildlife Bounty Claim Form directly from the RM Liaison.
- f. Completed forms must be returned to the RM Liaison for verification.
- g. Additional species may be designated by Council resolution.

Species-Specific Eligibility Requirements

h. Coyote Bounty Program

To be eligible for the coyote bounty:

- i. Four (4) paws required
- ii. Must be intact for verification
- iii. Land location and landowner info required.

i. Beaver Bounty Program

To be eligible for the beaver bounty:

- i. One (1) tail required



Municipal Wildlife Bounty Policy

- ii. Must be intact for verification
- iii. Must comply with RM and provincial regulations.

7. Procedures

a. **Scheduling an Appointment**

- i. Claimants contact the RM Liaison to schedule an appointment.
- ii. Claim forms are supplied only at the appointment.

b. **Submitting Harvested Proof**

- i. At the appointment, the claimant must present the required verification parts for each species, as follows:
 - 1. Coyotes: Four (4) paws per animal
 - 2. Beavers: One (1) tail per animal
- ii. Verification parts must be in a condition that allows identification and counting.

c. **Completing the Claim Form**

- i. The claimant completes the Municipal Wildlife Bounty Claim Form with the assistance of the RM Liaison.
- ii. The form must include:
 - 1. Claimant information
 - 2. HAL number and any required licenses/permits
 - 3. Land locations where harvesting occurred
 - 4. Landowner contact information
 - 5. Species and number submitted
- iii. The claimant signs the declaration confirming lawful harvest and compliance with RM policy.

d. **Verification**

- i. The RM Liaison verifies:
 - 1. Species and number of animals submitted
 - 2. Land locations are within the RM
 - 3. Landowner information is provided
 - 4. Licensing/permit requirements are met, especially fur licenses for Beaver harvested by trapping for SCAP-BCP.
- ii. If complete and compliant, the Liaison signs the “Authorized By” section.
- iii. The Liaison forwards the verified form to the Municipal Office.

e. **Payment Processing**

- i. The Municipal Office receives the verified claim form from the RM Liaison.
- ii. The Office issues the bounty payment according to Council-approved rates.



Municipal Wildlife Bounty Policy

8. Policy Review and Revision

This policy shall be reviewed at least once every three (3) years, or earlier at the discretion of Council. Administration may also bring forward recommended amendments at any time if operational issues arise, if the policy is found to be ineffective, or if legislative or bylaw changes require updates. All revisions must be approved by Council resolution.

9. Appendixes and Further Resources

- a. Bounty Rates



Municipal Wildlife Bounty Policy

Appendix A: Bounty Rates

The following bounty rates are approved by Council and apply to eligible species designated under this policy:

| Eligible Species | Verification Required | Bounty Amount |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Coyote | Four (4) paws per animal | \$20.00 per coyote |
| Beaver | One (1) tail per animal | \$50.00 per beaver |



Municipal Wildlife Bounty Policy

10. References

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