

**From:** [Denise Harkins](#)  
**To:** [councilmeeting](#)  
**Subject:** EC31.5 New Proposed animal by law  
**Date:** July 18, 2022 4:52:30 PM

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Action Volunteers for Animals (AVA Cat Rescue) strongly supports the no-roam by-law for cats proposed by the City of Toronto..

AVA is a 100% volunteer-run animal rescue celebrating its 50th year of helping to improve outcomes and the welfare of both owned and community cats. AVA adopts out over 2000 cats each year in the GTA. AVA's adoption policy supports that our adopted cats shall not be allowed to be in the uncontrolled outdoors. We do this because we want our animals to have long and healthy lives. The no-roam by law currently applies to dogs and other pets; domestic cats should be afforded the same health and safety protections.

The benefits of keeping your cat indoors or safely harnessed include reduced risks of:

- Being hit by a car and suffering serious or fatal injuries.
- Being attacked or eaten by coyotes, foxes, raccoons or dogs.
- Contracting fleas, parasites or worms from free-roaming animals.
- Contracting serious illnesses, including rabies, feline leukemia virus (FeLV), feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) and other contagious diseases that are also transferrable to other felines.
- Getting hurt, abused, tortured, poisoned or killed by humans.
- Hunting and killing birds and other local small-animal populations.

AVA also strongly supports:

- Microchipping of owned pets so that reuniting lost animals with their families is easier.
- Spaying and neutering of all pets to reduce populations and risks of illness, including cancers.
- Trap-Neuter-Return-Monitor (TNRM) programs to help reduce the outdoor feral/community cat populations, which successfully reduces numbers and improves health of populations.

Approximately 90 municipalities in Canada, including many in the GTHA, have similar bylaws in place including Hamilton, Vaughan, Oshawa and Markham - locations in which AVA operates. These municipalities can serve as examples for successful implementation and education of the importance and benefits of no-roam by-laws.

AVA strongly encourages Toronto City Council members to vote in favour of the amendments to Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 349 to include cats in its no-roam bylaw.

Regards,

Denise Harkins

President

On Behalf of our Board of Directors

Action Volunteers for Animals

Avacats.org