

**City of Toronto  
Dangerous Dog Review Tribunal  
2024 Annual Chair's Report**

## **Overview**

In 2024, the Dangerous Dog Review Tribunal continued to fulfill its mandate with a strong focus on timely, equitable, and fair adjudication of all matters brought before it. While there was a steady decline in hearings from 2023, the Tribunal remained steadfast in upholding procedural fairness and protecting the public interest.

## **Update on Rule 21 – Reconsideration of Tribunal Decisions**

As part of ongoing efforts to strengthen accessibility and procedural fairness, in and around September 2024, Rule 21 of the Tribunal's Rules of Procedure were amended. Now titled "**Reconsideration of a Tribunal Decision**," the revised rule replaces the former "Power to Review" provision and introduces several important procedural enhancements.

### **Key Changes to Rule 21:**

- The deadline to request reconsideration has been reduced from **30 days to 21 days** from the date of the Tribunal's written decision.
- Parties must now use **designated Tribunal forms** to submit a request for reconsideration and any responses, promoting consistency and ease of access.
- Written submissions are limited to **10 double-spaced pages (or 5 single-spaced pages)**, excluding supporting documents and authorities.
- Pursuant to Rule 21.6, the Tribunal has the power to review its own decision within a reasonable time but, cannot confirm, vary or reverse an order or order a new hearing unless it is satisfied that one or more of the grounds in Rule 21.4 are met and until the parties have had an opportunity to make submissions.
- Rule 21.4 sets out the only circumstances under which a reconsideration may be granted:
  - The Tribunal acted outside its jurisdiction;
  - There was a material breach of procedural fairness;
  - A significant error of law or fact occurred that likely impacted the decision;
  - New evidence has come to light that could not reasonably have been obtained earlier and would likely have affected the outcome.

### **Clearer Outcomes and Powers:**

- Pursuant to Rule 21.5, the Tribunal member assigned to consider a request may:
  - Dismiss the request;
  - Confirm, vary, or reverse the original decision; or
  - Order a rehearing (in full or in part), either by the original panel or a newly assigned panel.

These amendments ensure the reconsideration process is more transparent, efficient, and reflective of the Tribunal's commitment to accessible and fair decision-making.

**It is recommended that efforts be made to educate the public, as well as individuals and organizations involved in proceedings, on the amended Rule 21. These critical changes are essential to the efficient functioning of the Tribunal and, in fairness, ensure that parties understand the new timeline for reconsideration requests, the use of designated Tribunal forms, and the specific circumstances under which reconsiderations may be granted.**

## **Comparative Context**

In 2023, the Tribunal held over **30 hearings** and confirmed **20 Dangerous Dog Orders**—a notable increase linked to a surge in appeals that year. In 2024, the number of hearings normalized, reflecting a return to typical activity levels. Despite this decline, the Tribunal remains vigilant and responsive to public safety trends and incidents involving dangerous dogs in Toronto.

## **Tribunal Activity**

Between January and December 2024, the Tribunal convened **10 meetings**, including:

- 2 administrative meetings
- 8 hearing days, during which 18 hearings were held.

Outcomes for 2024 were as follows:

- **11 Dangerous Dog Orders confirmed**
- **1 Dangerous Dog Order rescinded**
- **2 matters withdrawn on consent**
- **2 matters deferred**
- **2 Requests for Reconsideration (formerly called a Request for a Review)** were received: one resulted in a deferral to September 18, 2025, and the other was heard on February 20, 2025, at which time the Dangerous Dog Order was rescinded.

These outcomes reflect the Tribunal's ongoing commitment to thorough and balanced decision-making grounded in fairness, safety, and due process.

## **Final Comments**

As Chair, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Tribunal Members, Tribunal Secretary, Council Administrator, and City staff for their exceptional professionalism and dedication throughout 2024. Their tireless support enables the Tribunal to serve the residents of Toronto with diligence, transparency, and integrity.

Respectfully submitted,

April 30, 2025

Tracey L. Hamilton,  
Chair, Dangerous Dog Review Tribunal