



## QUESTION & ANSWER

### **What is a Livestock Emotional Support Animal (LESA)?**

A livestock emotional support animal (LESA) is a companion animal under 180 kilograms in weight that has been determined to provide a benefit for an individual with a disability by a mental health professional. A Livestock Emotional Support Animal would otherwise be prohibited under the Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw.

### **What is the difference between a Livestock Emotional Support Animal and a Service Animal?**

A service animal is any animal trained to assist a person with a disability. That typically means a guide dog for the visually impaired, but can include many other roles, such as alerting persons of an oncoming seizure. A service animal is not considered a pet.

### **How do I apply for a Livestock Emotional Support Animal?**

- You must be 18 years of age.
- You must complete an application with the Town of Okotoks.
- You must provide a letter from a licensed psychologist or psychiatrist that is dated within the last 6 months.
- You must provide a letter from a licensed veterinarian that indicates the Livestock Emotional Support Animal has all required vaccines.
- You must pass a site inspection at your property/place of residence.

### **How long is my Livestock Emotional Support Animal application valid for?**

The Livestock Emotional Support Animal Bylaw 23-24 is pilot program that will run for one year, starting on August 1, 2024.

### **What animals can be considered under the Livestock Emotional Support Animal (LESA) requirements?**

To be considered a Livestock Emotional Support Animal, the livestock must be under 180kgs (396.8 lbs). All applicants must comply with all Town bylaws including the Responsible Pet Bylaw.

### **Can a person have more than one Livestock Emotional Support Animal?**

Only one Livestock Emotional Support Animal is allowed per property/resident.

**My neighbour has livestock, and I don't want them there. How can I get them removed?**

If they are violating a Bylaw, a Town of Okotoks Peace Officer will investigate. If no offence is occurring and they have been approved for a Livestock Emotional Support Animal, the Town will not investigate.

**I have a concern about a neighbour's Livestock Emotional Support Animal and their well being. Who can I call?**

Please contact Okotoks Municipal Enforcement or the Humane Society if you witness any form of cruelty or lack of care towards the animal.

**How much does it cost to apply for a Livestock Emotional Support Animal?**

There is no cost to apply for a Livestock Emotional Support Animal.