



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 a 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.