A. Myron Shwadchuck

1. If Listowel, Huron Kinloss, Waterloo and even Bluewater allow 3 dogs per dwelling why has it been arbitrarily decided, that the Village of Bluevale, be limited to 2?

The limit of 2 dogs in an Urban area is the whole of Morris-Turnberry, not just Bluevale. The preference for the number of dogs in Urban areas is 2, based on experience from other municipalities with a higher limit. Barking issues are more frequent if the number exceeds 2. This is not a new change, but is already in effect with current by-law.

2. Could we perhaps allow a certain area of property to be occupied by a weight of dogs? for instance 200 pounds per half acre.

This would be very difficult to monitor.

3. Who is the actual author of the enormous set of By-laws? How was it compiled?

The animal control officer and Adminstrator Clerk-Treasurer prepared the draft based on the current by-law, changes required due to legislation, other area by-laws and applicable information and as amended by council.

4. What educational qualifications does our Animal Control Officer possess?

The Animal Control officer has several years of experience and training in the Animal Control, Provincial Offences and By-law enforcement field.

6. Exactly what sort of training but more important to the Public is how accurate is his shooting?

This question is discriminatory and will not be answered.
7. What is the total salary for the position of Animal Control Officer when all districts he covers are included?

This question is personal information and the Municipality can not give this information out without the employee's approval.

8. Street is designated as S.S. 1 by the post office, some mail still refers to it as R.R.2, no one connected with our post office can tell why...Can the Council?

The address for your property is:
26 Orange Street, Box 18-4, Bluevale, ON N0G 1G0
Property description from the Land Registry office is:
Concession 1 Pt Spt Lot 32 as RP 22R3926 Part 1
Morris-Turnberry Council has no control over the address for your property.
This property is in an urban area and can only be changed to rural by an Official Plan amendment, cost is approximately $3200.00 - $4,000.00.

B. Vicki Carter

1. The sale of an impounded animal – how and why would this be deemed necessary and how would this be done? Where it states: the Animal Control Officer may sell the dog for such price as he/she deems fit, destroy the dog in a humane manner, or otherwise dispose of the dog as she/he deems fit in his/her discretion, and no damages or compensation shall be recoverable by the owner as a result of any such action, how is this determined both the choice and by what standard is this set?

An animal is impounded if running at large, off of the owners property. Sometimes an owner will say they do not want the animal and won't pay the costs.

If an animal is sold, it would be the responsibility of the person purchasing the animal to pay the associated costs with the animal – at large ie: animal control, veterinary costs, impoundment costs.

The normal length of time to impound a dog is 3 days, after that time, the animal control officer can give direction to the veterinary clinic to take action.

If a dog is running at large with no tags and picked up by the Animal Control, if the owner can not be located, the dog is subject to impoundment and euthanasia.
2. Where it states, that on a rural property more than 3 dogs may be owned if herding - only for sheep – why would this not apply to other herds of animals such as cattle, etc?

This regulation is from the Sheep Association for ‘Herding Dogs’. We are not aware of other organizations.

3. Where it states: that grooming services may not be done in urban areas. Is this only when offered along with a licenced kennel or for any grooming service like what is offered in Wingham at the pet store or at some private groomers in local towns?

The Morris-Turnberry Zoning By-laws do not allow a dog kennel in an urban area. If that type of occupation is being performed, it does not comply with the Zoning By-laws. Animal Health Service falls under the category of Village Commercial, not under the residential zoning.

The forms for a zoning amendment or an Official Plan amendment are located on the website: [www.morristurnberry.ca](http://www.morristurnberry.ca)

4. License issued expire on the 31st day of December, how does this work when new licenses are usually not available until later in the new year and often in cases where you apply for them to be sent when you pay your taxes?

Dog tags are available for sale late in the year for the next year. The last sale date is the 15th day of May, with no penalty.

5. If you are asked to show your dog license and it isn’t mailed yet does the bylaw officer take your word or check to see if it is ordered or fine you on the spot and you go to the Municipal office to prove otherwise?

The Animal Control checks with the Municipal Office as to the status of the dog licenses, prior to fines being issued.

6. Where it states: A dog shall be deemed to be running at large if found on municipal property and not on a leash, unless at a designated leash free park – what about hunting dogs while running and will there be leash free parks available to the public for this?

There are no lease free parks, currently in Morris-Turnberry. Hunting Dogs require permission to be running on private property or public property.
7. Where it states: Causing a disturbance by barking etc., all dogs must bark sometimes and will bark if someone enters your property, home, etc., I am assuming this bylaw means extreme barking/noise etc. but the wording could allow a person to complain over normal noise – what then?

Fines will only be considered for persistent barking. The fines are based on OPP guidelines. Currently the animal control by-law sets out the hours that a dog cannot bark. That is difficult for the owner to monitor.

8. Where it states: Dog excrement on private property does this mean if bylaw officer was to come on to your personal property and finds excrement he can actually fine you and how does he know if it is from your dog or someone else’s especially if he doesn’t actually see it happen?

If there is a persistent problem and neighbours are complaining, the animal control officer can act under this section for private property. This is a complaint driven process. The Animal Control Officer only acts under a complaint.

9. Why is the Wingham Veterinary Office the only one used in instances when needed and do they receive a monetary benefit from this or benefit in some way from being the only service used?

The Wingham Veterinary Clinic is central and yes the Municipality is billed for the service at the Wingham Veterinary Office. If the owner of the animal is known, costs are recovered.

10. Does this officer have to show proof of necessary actions he takes to the owner of the pet to prevent the township from having legal action taken against it if a disagreement arises over the actions?

No action will be taken if the owner can be located and wants the animal.

11. Any person may keep a prohibited animal provided they submit credentials of training to handle the prohibited animals and, the owner has filed a letter of request, as shown in Schedule ‘D’ for an exemption from section 19.1 of this bylaw and has received approval in writing from the Clerk. Request must be accompanied by pictures, type and number of animals or reptiles - Doesn’t the bylaw officer also require some training, etc to handle, inspect and make decision on these matters or call in SPCA or other such entity to do so and for inspections?

The Animal Control Officer is fully trained for his duties and well qualified.
12. Where the prohibited/restricted list is concerned, why is, for example, a hedgehog that is harmless, on there and when the informed decision is made on this, by asking veterinarians, wildlife experts, etc., and at least one member of council so an educated and informed decision could be made on such matters?

The council rely on the expertise of applicable staff- in this case the Animal Control Officer.

13. Would council please explain the Animal Control Officers ability to come onto private property or enter a home or out building on that property? Will he need to give advance notice to do so? Will he have to state why he is wanting to and if a complaint is lodged show written proof of the complaint? If no one is home will he be able to enter property without owner’s presence or consent? Will this municipality be giving this bylaw officer or others this authority?

If a complaint is received, the Animal Control Officer will go to the door of the residence and if denied access, may obtain a warrant to enter the property to address a complaint.

14. What are the requirements for the job of Animal Control Officer for the municipality and how long is the contract for this job? Is it re-posted every time the contract comes due again? If so where would it be posted? Can anyone apply for this position?

This position is a contract position, in regard to duties, not contract in regard to duration of the employment. If a position is posted, all job postings are open to the public, there will be qualifications to fulfill.

15. How many Municipalities does our present Animal Control Officer cover presently and does he also have any other jobs aside from this service he is obligated to? If so, how is he able to provide adequate coverage, service and assistance to our area in a timely, appropriate and publicly safe manner?

Bob Trick provides the animal control service required by Morris-Turnberry. We are not at liberty to discuss his other employment. He is always available, when required.

16. Who actually put the new bylaws together for this proposed new bylaw and by what standards was it made? Eg. Other municipalities, input from vets, natural resource information, SPCA input?

The Animal Control Officer and Administrator Clerk-Treasurer prepared the draft based on the current by-law, Changes to the Municipal Act, in 2003, other area by-laws and applicable information.
17. If there are more problems as suggested by this revised edition than people realize, would the township be better to purchase for example one of the recently closed schools – which seem to go quite reasonably priced or other such properties and open a local shelter on its own or in partnership with SPCA in our area?

There are no plans, to this date to open a local shelter for animals.

18. Exclusion of people who foster pets for registered Rescue Agencies?

The fostering of pets is a topic that the council has discussed. To comply with the Zoning by-laws, fostering would not be allowed in residential/urban areas, without a zoning amendment. Fostering would only be allowed with a kennel licence.

C. Jennifer Wick

1. Why is there a difference between the number of dogs allowed in urban areas and those allowed in rural areas?

Due to the difference in the size of the property and proximity to other residences.

2. Why is the maximum number of mice/rats allowed in an urban area only 5 total?

Due to the proximity of other residences in urban areas.

3. What is proposed for people to do if a female they have gets pregnant and has babies?

The babies can be kept with no license for 12 weeks.

4. Is it requested they kill the newborns to keep within the limit of 5? Wouldn’t that be promoting animal cruelty?

There is no cruelty to animals suggested in the by-law, that is the responsibility of the owner to concur with the limitations.
5. Why if someone is in a rural area and specifically have a sheep farm are they allowed over the rural limit of 3 dogs? Are goat, pig, poultry and cow farmers allowed this same exception?

This is based on information from the Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency for Livestock and Herding Dogs. The concern is the predators (coyotes) injuring sheep and claims to the Province of Ontario under the wildlife damage compensation program.

6. Why must the dog be isolated – is it contagious when in heat?

This is a usual common sense practice by the owner of a dog, to prevent the dog from wandering.

7. Why must the dog be confined to a building – does the dog not require exercise and outdoor time?

The exercise is the responsibility of the owner.

8. Causing a Disturbance - Why is the original bylaw with a set time limit which is clearly defined being replaced by this undefined one?

For enforcement of complaint situations.

9. Why must inhabitants of Morris-Turnberry remove dog excrement from their own private land unless it is becoming offensive?

The Animal Control Officer has stated that that section will be enforced if complaint driven. This is to ensure owner removes dog excrement off his neighbour’s private property.

10. Prohibited Animals - How will inhabitants of Morris-Turnberry fulfill this section of the bylaw in order to obtain an ‘exemption’ if no such training or certification even exists?

That will be the discretion of the Animal Control Officer.

11. Will the same be expected of the Animal Control Bylaw officer to obtain? For example a falconer’s license – this is legally required by the MNR to handle predatory birds.

It will be required for an exemption.
12. Page 16, #2 and #5, why ‘fox’ and ‘mink’ are in this section when on page 3, ‘fox’ and ‘mink’ are listed as livestock?

This section doesn’t apply if kept for livestock.

13. Why are boas, pythons and members of the family Varanidae included? Should it not be for snakes over a certain size, same with monitors?

Snakes grow, so the size factor would not be acceptable.

14. Why are poultry, waterfowl & galliformes and smaller livestock such as pot-bellied pigs, pygmy goats and ponies prohibited?

Poultry and other livestock is prohibited in Urban areas only.

15. Why can a rural property have predatory birds as long as they are kept as ‘livestock’?

Livestock is authorized in the rural area, under the Zoning By-law.

16. Why all arthropods, which by the way include spiders, so not sure why they are in the bylaw twice?

Different varieties of spiders.

17. You can have giraffes, hippos, rhinos and tapiers as long as they are kept as livestock?

Correct

18. Marsupials- considered prohibited animal.

#22 Insectivorous – Why in the by-law?

To be removed from the by-law

19. Administration fee for Section 15.8 - $50.00, there is no section 15.8 so why is this in here?

That section is changed to 16.8
This report was reviewed and amended with the council on June 18, 2013.

Thank you

Nancy Michie