

Appendix C – Relevant Background & Policy Context

Pet Boarding as a Home Based Business

Summary

After conducting a municipal scan, the overall consensus is that pet boarding / pet sitting being accepted as a home based business is not permitted in every municipality contacted. There were some differing laws with regards to other pet based businesses in the home but the act of having animals stay overnight for business purposes was universally agreed upon. As well, none of the municipalities contacted had any plans moving forward to allow this as a home based business.

The response from each municipality is as follows:

Windsor - No overnight boarding is permitted. Only overnight boarding permitted is for medical purposes in a properly zoned area. Windsor does not even have specific provisions for kennels.

Sarnia – Sarnia has a “Doggy Day Care” acting like a kennel but it is in a commercial area. They do not permit overnight boarding in a residential area.

Hamilton – No overnight boarding is permitted. If boarded overnight, it is considered a kennel and must be in the proper zoned area for such a use.

Burlington – Overnight boarding is not permitted but they do accept home grooming and training as a home based business with some specific restrictions.

Kingston – Can obtain a permit to house and board animals but this also must be in an area that conforms to the zoning requirements. Residential areas would not qualify for this option.

Vaughan – Not permitted, only permitted in agricultural zones.

Guelph – Not permitted, animal care cannot be overnight and this is only acceptable in their industrial areas.

Oakville – Not permitted, only in industrial and agricultural areas can there be overnight boarding options.

St. Catharines – Not permitted, grooming and training as a home based business is also not permitted. The by-law was modified in 2013 to ensure that such a home based business or any home based business involving animals does not occur. Take a strong stance on avoiding animal home based businesses.