

**APPEAL PACKAGE**  
**GAB 2026-001**

# **HEARING AGENDA**

GAB 2026-001

Appeal File No. GAB 2026-001

**Re: An Appeal Against an Order to Remedy a Contravention Under  
Section 5.3 of the Animals and Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw**

April 14, 2026

2:00 PM

Council Chambers, City Hall

### **ATTENDEES**

Chair: Linda Murphy

Members: Jamie McFadyen and Brenda Sherback

1. Appeal Clerk Introduces the Appeal
2. Open Hearing and Introduction
  - a. Introduction of the Chair
  - b. Introduction of the Members of the Panel
  - c. Preliminary Matters
  - d. Introduction of the Hearing Procedures
3. Presentation: Respondent
4. Presentation: Appellant
5. Those Speaking in Favour of the Appeal
6. Those Speaking in Opposition of the Appeal
7. Appellant's Rebuttal
8. Final Questions from the Board & Responses
9. Respondent's Closing Statement
10. Appellant's Closing Statement
11. Close Hearing & Enter Closed Deliberations

# **NOTICE OF APPEAL**

GAB 2026-001

### Appeal Information

Appeal Type: Appeal of a Remedial Order

If other, please specify

The date of the Decision, Notice, Order License or Permit: 2026-02-25

The date that the Decision, Notice, Order License or Permit was received if different than the date of the notice: 2026-03-03

The land affected by the Appeal is (if applicable):

Municipal Address or Location: 9002 122 ave

Name of Owner: The Menzies Family

Please state and explain your grounds for appeal:

Dear Clerk of the General Appeal Board,

I am writing to formally appeal the Order to Remedy Contravention dated February 25, 2026, issued under section 545 of the Municipal Government Act in relation to the above-noted properties and the horse known as "Captain." The Order requires removal of the horse from the property and states a compliance deadline of March 15, 2026, with possible enforcement action, cost recovery, fines, and court proceedings if compliance is not achieved.

I respectfully request that the General Appeal Board review this Order and grant a stay of enforcement pending the outcome of this appeal.

My grounds for appeal are as follows:

First, the Order is unreasonable and disproportionate in the circumstances. The requirement to immediately remove and relocate the horse imposes significant hardship on our family without sufficient regard to the unique and compassionate circumstances involved.

Second, Captain is on the 5+ acre property for medical and therapeutic reasons connected to our daughter's healing and recovery from a severe concussion that left her paralyzed for months and a long journey to recovery with disabilities. He is not being kept casually or for convenience. His presence is important to her well-being, emotional support, and ongoing

## Notice of Appeal Application

healing. Removing him from the property at this time would have a direct negative impact on our daughter during a period when stability, familiarity, and therapeutic support are especially important.

Third, we have spoken with the majority of our neighbours, and they are supportive of having the horse on the 5+ acre property while our daughter heals as Captain has no negative impact on their properties or the surrounding community. This support is significant and they are willing to demonstrate this support to city council. It demonstrates that the situation is understood within the community and is not giving rise to the sort of neighbourhood concern that would justify such a severe enforcement response.

Fourth, insufficient consideration appears to have been given to the welfare of both the horse and our family. Relocating a horse is not a simple or immediate matter. It requires appropriate arrangements, safe transportation, and planning to ensure the animal's welfare. In this case, those considerations are closely tied to our daughter's therapeutic and medical needs as well.

Fifth, the Order does not appear to adequately consider whether less drastic or temporary alternatives were available. A temporary accommodation, an extended compliance period, or another reasonable interim solution could have been considered in light of our daughter's healing needs and the support of the surrounding neighbours. Instead, the Order proceeds directly to full removal.

Sixth, I request procedural fairness and a full review of all relevant facts and circumstances, including the medical and therapeutic reasons for Captain remaining on the property, the temporary nature of the present arrangement, the support expressed by the majority of our neighbours, and whether a more reasonable and compassionate accommodation ought to have been considered.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the General Appeal Board:

- accept this Notice of Appeal;
- stay enforcement of the Order pending the hearing and determination of this appeal;
- rescind, vary, or suspend the Order to Remedy; and

## Notice of Appeal Application

- grant any further relief the Board considers just and appropriate.

I would appreciate confirmation that this appeal has been received, along with any further instructions regarding forms, hearing dates, or payment of the appeal fee.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

The Menzies Family

# **IN OPPOSITION OF THE APPEAL**

SUBMISSION FROM THE RESPONDENT

GAB 2026-001

## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

<b>TO:</b> Chair, General Appeal Board	<b>DATE:</b> April 14, 2026
<b>FROM:</b> Helen Napier, Chief Bylaw Officer	<b>MEETING:</b> General Appeal Board Meeting
<b>REPORT WRITER:</b> Helen Napier, Managing Director – Grande Prairie Enforcement Services	
<b>SUBJECT:</b> Order to Remedy Appeal	

### RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Appeal Board, pursuant to Bylaw C-1469, being the General Appeal Board Bylaw, deny the appeal and uphold the Order to Remedy Contravention issued under Section 545 of the Municipal Government Act (MGA) to Kurt Menzies, as set out in correspondence dated February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

### BACKGROUND

On March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025, a call for service was received concerning the presence of a horse on the property at 9002 122 Avenue, Grande Prairie, Alberta. A review of file history indicated that Bylaw Enforcement Officer Smith had previously attended the property on January 4, 2023, and spoke with Ellen Christopherson regarding the presence of a horse and the requirement for its removal. Subsequently, on January 10, 2023, Ms. Christopherson contacted Officer Smith by telephone to advise that the horse had been relocated to a farm.

On March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Peace Officer Lopez attended the location and subsequently met with Mr. Kurt Menzies at 12038 Cygnet Boulevard. During this interaction, Mr. Menzies identified himself as the owner of the horse located on the adjacent property at 9002 122 Avenue.

Mr. Menzies advised that the horse is used as a therapy animal for his daughter. He explained that his daughter [ATIA Section 20\(1\)](#)

[ATIA Section 20\(1\)](#) Mr. Menzies further indicated that, on the recommendation [ATIA Section 20\(1\)](#), she continues to participate in therapeutic activities involving the same horse. Mr. Menzies stated that these therapeutic sessions occur at least three times daily. He also advised that, until recently, the horse had been kept at a farm outside the City. Following the sale of that property, he relocated the horse to 9002 122 Avenue.

Peace Officer Lopez explained the Respecting Animals and Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw to Mr. Menzies, specifically regarding the keeping of livestock within City limits, and discussed the option of submitting a livestock exemption application. On April 8, 2025, Officer Lopez telephoned Mr. Menzies and left a voicemail regarding the completion of the exemption application. Subsequently, on April 16, 2025, Officer Lopez attended Mr. Menzies' residence, at which time Mr. Menzies completed the livestock exemption application.

On July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025, a Neighborhood Impact Assessment was initiated to provide adjacent property owners with an opportunity to express support or concern regarding the livestock exemption application. A total of 9 responses were received, including 2 in support of the application and 7 in opposition.

On the same date, Mr. Menzies was sent a letter requesting additional information, including letters of support, clarification regarding the therapeutic use of the horse, and details concerning the animals' housing and welfare. Mr. Menzies provided a response on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, which included an email of support from Gary Menzies, the property owner of 9002 122 Avenue, photographs of his daughter and the horse, letters of support, and a request for approval of the application on the basis that the horse's presence was essential to his daughter's recovery.

On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, additional information was obtained from Mr. Menzies to support the consideration of the livestock exemption application. At that time, Mr. Menzies advised that his daughter's accident occurred in December 2023, but the horse had not been relocated to 9002 122 Avenue until approximately March or April 2025. He further stated that, prior to the horse's relocation, his daughter had been participating in therapy approximately three times per week.

Mr. Menzies clarified that the fence between his residence at 12038 Cygnet Boulevard and 9002 122 Avenue had been removed. He also advised that he currently has a couple of cats and three dogs residing at 12038 Cygnet Boulevard. When asked why Enforcement Services had not been contacted upon relocating the horse to 9002 122 Avenue, Mr. Menzies explained that he had received little to no notice regarding the sale of the property where the horse had previously been boarded, and that, following advice from his daughter's psychologist, it was deemed best for the horse to be located at 9002 122 Avenue for therapeutic purposes.

After careful consideration of all relevant factors, Mr. Menzies was sent a letter dated December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, advising that the Livestock Exemption Permit had been denied. The letter acknowledged that the request was made based on the therapeutic needs of his daughter but emphasized that these needs must be balanced against the broader public interest and the regulatory requirements of the municipality. The letter further provided the following explanation:

1. **Land Use Bylaw and Neighborhood Compatibility:** The properties are located in the Crystal Lake Estates neighborhood, zoned as General Residential. The keeping of livestock (including horses) is neither a permitted nor a discretionary use in this zone. The introduction of livestock into this established residential area is fundamentally inconsistent with the character of the neighborhood.
2. **Public Interest and Neighbourhood Impact:** The Director must consider the public interest when evaluating exemption requests. The City conducted a formal NIA of 19 adjacent property owners. The results indicated significant opposition: 7 opposed (37%), 2 in support (10%), and 10 provided no response (53%). Concerns raised included potential odors, noise, negative impacts on property values, and the incompatibility of livestock in a residential setting.

3. **Enforcement History and Impact on Neighbours:** The review considered the history of bylaw enforcement in respect of the properties, which includes eight (8) bylaw-related enforcement calls between 2023 and 2025. These include previous instances of the horse being kept without a permit (January 2023 and March 2025) and documented complaints regarding the management of existing pets. This history indicates that granting this exemption would likely result in continued adverse impacts on the use and enjoyment of neighboring properties and is contrary to the public interest.

The letter further explained that the application had been reviewed through a human rights lens, recognizing the municipality's duty to accommodate disability-related needs up to the point of undue hardship. It was determined that, while less convenient, relocating the horse to an appropriately zoned boarding facility remained a viable option for continuing the therapeutic program for Mr. Menzies' daughter.

Accordingly, the letter directed Mr. Menzies to relocate the horse to an appropriately zoned location on or before January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026, and informed him of his right to appeal the decision within 14 calendar days of receipt of the letter.

On February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026, Grande Prairie Enforcement Services conducted a follow-up inspection of the properties and confirmed that the horse had not been relocated, remaining on the premises in contravention of the January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026 compliance deadline. As a result, Mr. Menzies was issued an Order to Remedy Contravention under Section 545 of the Alberta Municipal Government Act.

## APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

The following sections of Bylaw C-1226 were used to investigate the complaint received and determine the validity of the complaint:

*“LIVESTOCK” includes, but is not limited to:*

- a) a horse, mule, ass, swine, emu, ostrich, camel, llama, alpaca, sheep, pig (including potbellied pigs), or goat;*
- b) domestically reared or kept deer, reindeer, moose, elk or bison;*
- c) farm bred fur bearing animals including foxes and mink;*
- d) animals of the bovine species;*
- e) animals of the avian species including chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese or pheasants; and*
- f) all other animals that are kept for agricultural purposes.*

*but does not include a domestic cat or domestic dog.*

**5.3** *A Person shall not keep Livestock in the City except where the keeping of Livestock is permitted or approved as discretionary by the Land Use Bylaw or the Person has been issues a valid Livestock Exemption Permit from the Director.*

**5.3A** *A Livestock Exemption Permit issued by the Director may include terms and conditions of the permit that includes but are not limited to:*

- a) the type of animals that can be kept;*
- b) the location where the animals are kept;*

- c) the maximum number of animals that may be kept;
- d) the manner in which the animals must be kept;
- e) restrictions on the sale or use of animal products;
- f) the term of the permit;
- g) minimum age of the applicant;
- h) mandatory training; or
- i) any other matter the Director determines is in the public interest.

**5.3B** A permit holder shall not contravene any term or condition of a Livestock Exemption Permit.

**5.3C** The Director may refuse, alter, suspend or revoke a Livestock Exemption Permit:

- a) if a Livestock Exemption Permit is refused, suspended or revoked the applicant or permit holder can appeal the Director's decision in accordance with the General Appeal Board Bylaw C-1469.

The following sections of the Municipal Government Act were used to investigate the complaint received:

**Order to remedy contraventions**

**545(1)** If a designated officer finds that a person is contravening this or any other enactment that the municipality is authorized to enforce or a bylaw, the designated officer may, by written order, require the person responsible for the contravention to remedy it if the circumstances so require.

**(2)** The order may

- (a) direct a person to stop doing something, or to change the way in which the person is doing it;
- (b) direct a person to take any action or measures necessary to remedy the contravention of the enactment or bylaw, including the removal or demolition of a structure that has been erected or placed in contravention of a bylaw, and, if necessary, to prevent a re-occurrence of the contravention;
- (c) state a time within which the person must comply with the directions;
- (d) state that if the person does not comply with the directions within a specified time, the municipality will take the action or measure at the expense of the person.

<b>SUMMARY/CONCLUSION</b>
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After a thorough review of the facts, relevant legislation, and the history of enforcement, it is concluded that the appeal by Mr. Menzies should be denied and the Order to Remedy Contravention upheld. The key considerations supporting this conclusion include:

1. **Regulatory Compliance and Land Use:** The properties in question are zoned General Residential, where the keeping of livestock, including horses, is neither a permitted nor discretionary use. Allowing livestock in this established residential area is inconsistent with the intended character of the neighborhood and the Land Use Bylaw.

2. **Public Interest and Neighborhood Impact:** A formal Neighborhood Impact Assessment demonstrated significant opposition from adjacent property owners, with concerns regarding odors, noise, property values, and general incompatibility of livestock within a residential setting. The broader public interest must take precedence when evaluating exemption requests.
3. **Enforcement History:** The properties have a documented history of bylaw enforcement, including a prior instance of livestock being kept without a permit. This history suggests that granting an exemption would likely result in ongoing adverse effects on neighbouring properties.
4. **Consideration of Therapeutic Needs:** While the therapeutic needs of Mr. Menzies' daughter were recognized and reviewed through a human rights lens, it was determined that these needs could be accommodated without undue hardship by relocating the horse to an appropriately zoned facility. This approach balances individual needs with regulatory requirements and the broader public interest.
5. **Non-Compliance with Permit Direction:** Despite clear direction to relocate the horse by January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026, the horse remained on the property as of February 25, 2026, in direct contravention of the compliance deadline. This non-compliance necessitated the issuance of an Order to Remedy Contravention under Section 545 of the Municipal Government Act.

Based on the review of all relevant facts, enforcement history, public interest considerations, and applicable bylaws and legislation, the denial of the Livestock Exemption Permit and the issuance of the Order to Remedy Contravention were appropriate and reasonable. Upholding the Order ensures compliance with municipal regulations, maintains the character and integrity of the neighborhood, addresses concerns of adjacent property owners, and balances the individual therapeutic needs of Mr. Menzies' daughter with the broader public interest.

## ATTACHMENTS

### **Appendix A**

Livestock Exemption Application

### **Appendix B**

Additional Information - Livestock Exemption Application

### **Appendix C**

Letter of Decision – Livestock Exemption Application

### **Appendix D**

Order to Remedy

# **IN OPPOSITION OF THE APPEAL**

Attachment –

Livestock Exemption Application

GAB 2026-001

2025-0990



### Livestock Exemption Application

Please submit completed form to [es\\_contact@cityofgp.com](mailto:es_contact@cityofgp.com)

Clear Form

Print Form

**Proposed Location**

**Municipal Address** 9002 122 Ave / 12038 Cygnus Blvd.

**Type of Building**  Apartment  Condominium  Duplex  House  Mobile Home  Semi-Attached  Townhouse

**Applicant Information**

**Name** Kurt Menzies

**Address** 12038 Cygnus Blvd.

**Phone (cell)** ATIA Section 20(1) **Phone (home)**

**Email** ATIA Section 20(1)

**Owner Information (if different)**

**Name** Same as above

**Address**

**Phone (cell)** **Phone (home)**

**Email**

**Animal Information**

<b>Animal Species</b>	Quarterhorse	<b>Quantity</b>	1
<b>Animal Species</b>		<b>Quantity</b>	
<b>Animal Species</b>		<b>Quantity</b>	

Clear Form

Print Form

### Submission Requirements

This checklist of submission requirements shall be attached to all Livestock Exemption applications. All applicable boxes shall be checked and the required information shall be submitted with this application. Applications will not be accepted without this list attached.

**Letter of Consent**

Are you renting the residence where you will be housing the Animals? If you are a renter or a tenant, or your name is not listed in the property's land title, you require a Letter of Consent from the owner or the property management company representing the owner.

**Urban Hens**

- |  |                              |                             |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Have you completed an Urban Hen Keeping course?                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 2. You have reviewed and understood the Urban Hen Guidelines and Procedures? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 3. A Premise Identification Number has been registered?                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

**Urban Bees**

- |   |                              |                             |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Have you completed a certified Beekeeping course?  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 2. Have you proof of support and assistance from an accepted mentor? (First Time Beekeepers)? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 3. You have reviewed and understood the Urban Beekeeping Guidelines and Procedures.           | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 4. A Certificate of Registration with the Provincial Apiculturist.                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

### Notification of Adjacent Neighbours

A letter will be sent to your neighbours (by the City of Grande Prairie) detailing your request and they will have two weeks to express any concerns to Enforcement Services.

### Additional Information

Briefly describe why you wish to apply for a Livestock Exemption Permit in the space provided below.

- ~~2~~ Medical support under direction from doctors and psychologists for recovery from brain trauma.
- letters of support from medical team.
- horse was involved in the accident and part of the recovery plan.
- recovery plan is 3x per day interacting with each other in various activities.

Clear Form

Print Form

Are you a member of a specific Animal association/society? If yes, please describe which one(s):

- Alberta Equestrian Association
- Agriculture Alberta Assoc.
- PID # AA038J809

Please draw or attach a plot plan showing the location of enclosure(s) if applicable:

See Attached Photos.

Please describe the enclosure, the materials used and construction specifications. Include photos if possible.

~~Wood~~ Electrical livestock fencing including heated stall for the winter. The area is fenced off from public access.

**Submit Form**

Email

Submit completed form and all supporting documentation to [es\\_contact@cityofgp.com](mailto:es_contact@cityofgp.com)

**FOIP Act Policy**

This information is being collected under the Authority of Section 33(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act, RSA 2000, c. F-25, as amended from time to time, and may be used for the administration of City of Grande Prairie programs including publicity materials. Your personal information is protected by the privacy provisions of the FOIP Act. Please forward any questions or concerns to the FOIP Coordinator at 10205 - 98 Street, Grande Prairie, AB T8V 2E7, [cityclks@cityofgp.com](mailto:cityclks@cityofgp.com).



Redacted Medical Information from the Public Package  
ATIA Section 20(1)



# **IN OPPOSITION OF THE APPEAL**

Attachment – Additional Information

Livestock Exemption Application

GAB 2026-001

July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Kurt Menzies  
12038 Cygnet Blvd.  
Grande Prairie, AB T8X 1J9

**Subject: Livestock Exemption Permit Application – 9002 122 Ave**

Dear Mr. Menzies,

This letter acknowledges receipt of your application for a Livestock Exemption Permit to keep a horse at your property located at 9002 122 Ave. We understand that this request is made to provide **ATIA Section 20(1)** and we appreciate the supporting letter from Soul Psychology provided with your application.

The City of Grande Prairie is committed to reviewing all applications fairly, considering both the provisions of the Responsible Animal Ownership Bylaw C-1226 and our obligations under the Alberta Human Rights Act.

To assist us in a thorough assessment of your application, we require some additional information:

1. **Additional Letters of Support:** Your application form referenced "letters of support from medical teams" beyond the one submitted from Soul Psychology. To gain a complete understanding of the medical rationale, please provide any other supporting documentation from medical professionals that you mentioned.
2. **Clarification of Therapeutic Link:** To better understand the specific accommodation required, please provide further clarification from the provisional psychologist (or other relevant medical professionals, with appropriate parental consent) regarding:
  - o The specific functional limitations your daughter experiences as a result of the trauma.

- A more detailed explanation of how the daily interaction with the horse directly addresses these functional limitations and contributes to your daughter's recovery plan and ongoing mental health stability. This explanation should focus on the direct therapeutic link and the specific needs being met through the interaction with the horse, rather than detailed medical history.
3. **Details on Animal Housing and Welfare:** To ensure compliance with Bylaw C-1226 and applicable standards for animal welfare, sanitation, and nuisance prevention, please provide clarification on the dimensions of the fenced area intended for the horse; the specifications of the heated stall, including its size, and heating mechanism; your plan for ensuring the welfare of the horse, including provisions for feed, water, veterinary care, and exercise; measures for maintaining sanitation of the horse's living conditions, such as waste removal protocols and cleaning schedules; and strategies for preventing nuisance (e.g., noise, odor, or visual impacts).

As part of our standard review process for Livestock Exemption Permit applications, and as outlined in the application form, the City will be notifying adjacent neighbours of your request to provide them an opportunity to express any concerns they may have. This notification process allows the City to gather comprehensive information relevant to the application.

The Director of Enforcement Services has the discretion to issue a Livestock Exemption Permit, which may include specific terms and conditions to ensure public interest, safety, and compliance with City standards. These conditions could relate to aspects such as the duration of the exemption, location and specifications of the animal's enclosure, waste management, and other operational details.

We encourage you to provide the requested information as soon as possible to allow us to continue processing your application. Please do not hesitate to contact 780-882-6155 if you have any questions or wish to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

Grande Prairie Enforcement Services

## Helen Napier

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**From:** J and G menzies [ATIA Section 20\(1\)](#)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 23, 2025 11:35 AM  
**To:** Helen Napier  
**Cc:** Kurtis Menzies  
**Subject:** Landowner Support for therapy horse

You don't often get email from [ATIA Section 20\(1\)](#) [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi Helen,

As the landowners of 9002 122 Avenue, Grande Prairie, Alberta, we fully support the presence of a therapy horse on our property to aid in Jessica's recovery. Equine-assisted therapy has been an essential part of her healing process, and having the horse on-site will provide consistent care and support for her well-being. We are committed to monitoring proper shelter, feeding, and waste management, and that the animal does not pose any disturbance or risk to the community. We are prepared to help Kurt & Jessica comply with all local bylaws or zoning requirements and kindly ask for any necessary approvals to allow this important therapeutic support to continue. Additionally we authorize Kurt Menzies to act on our behalf on this matter to expedite the process.

Regards,

Gary Menzies  
768537 Alberta Ltd.  
Sent from my iPhone

## Helen Napier

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**From:** Kurtis Menzies <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 23, 2025 11:47 AM  
**To:** Helen Napier  
**Subject:** Supporting Documents for Jessica and Captain

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

[Download full resolution images](#)  
Available until Oct 23, 2025

Hi Helen,

Thank you for your patience while we gathered the additional requested information. Attached you'll find letters of support [REDACTED] (we're expecting a couple more to come in this week with additional available if needed). You should also see a support / authorization email directly from Gary Menzies as requested.

Included is a few photos of Captain and Jessica interacting on the property. As the saying goes, pictures speak a thousand words—over the past several months, numerous neighbors and community members who have witnessed their bond have shared how inspiring, joyful, and healing it has been to watch the two of them grow and heal together.

Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or if further documentation would be helpful. We truly appreciate all the support provided to assist Jessica and Captain on their healing journey.

Warm regards,  
Kurt Menzies

[Click to Download](#)

Response to Information Request - Livestock Permit - 1 therapy horse.pdf  
126 KB

[Click to Download](#)

Jessica Menzies Recommendation.pdf  
83 KB

[Click to Download](#)

Support letter [REDACTED].pdf  
181 KB

[Click to Download](#)

Client Letter.docx  
185 KB



## Response to Request for Additional Information – Livestock Exemption Permit Application (9002 122 Ave / 12038 Cygnet Blvd)

Dear Enforcement Services Director,

Thank you for your letter dated **July 18, 2025**, regarding our application for a Livestock Exemption Permit to keep one horse, *Captain*, at our residence. We appreciate the City's commitment to a fair and thorough review process and are pleased to provide the requested information.

### 1) Additional Letters of Support

Please find attached additional letters from professionals involved in our daughter's recovery. These confirm the therapeutic value of her daily, ground-based interaction with Captain and will supplement the documentation previously submitted from Soul Psychology.

### 2) Clarification of the Therapeutic Link

**ATIA Section 20(1)**

Our request is based on the therapeutic role Captain plays in addressing those limitations through **unmounted, consent-based interaction** (calm presence, grooming, leading, simple liberty work). This is not recreational ownership; it is a structured, daily support that has produced observable, functional gains:

**ATIA Section 20(1)**

# ATIA Section 20(1)

Captain's progress mirrors her own. When boarded elsewhere he was withdrawn and disengaged. Since coming home he runs and plays freely, lies down regularly (a strong relaxation/welfare indicator in horses), and seeks human connection—our farrier has described his change as “100x improvement.” This **mutual healing** is a core part of the therapeutic link.

### 3) Why On-Site is Necessary

Equine-assisted work is most effective when it is **frequent, immediate, and low-barrier**:

- **Immediate access:** **ATIA Section 20(1)** impossible if he were off-site.
- **Daily exposure, short duration:** Small, repeatable interactions embedded in morning/evening routines build resilience more effectively than infrequent, scheduled visits.
- **Barrier-free engagement:** On-site presence removes logistical and psychological barriers that previously prevented her from visiting Captain off-site.
- **Confidence in a safe setting:** Home provides a predictable environment to expand comfort zones gradually rather than confronting overwhelming new settings.

For these reasons, Captain's presence at home is a **therapeutic necessity**, not a convenience.

### 4) Animal Housing and Welfare

We meet or exceed Bylaw C-1226 requirements for welfare, sanitation, and nuisance prevention:

- **Fenced area:** One-acre, secure paddock with natural tree shelter, continuous water and forage, and ample space to move.
- **Shelter/Stable:** (Will be available to Captain before sustained sub-zero temperatures this fall.) A 12 × 12 ft insulated shelter with straw/wood-chip bedding, cross-ventilation and a thermostat-controlled radiant electric heater to temper extreme cold, preserving the horse's natural thermoregulation. Captain will have free choice to be in or out at all times. He has access to natural large tree cover at all times and windbreak structures. We offer a weather-appropriate blanket at his choice.
- **Exercise:** Supervised access to our larger 5-acre fenced property for daily movement and enrichment.

- **Nutrition & care:** Continuous hay/forage; seasonal grass; farrier and dental; annual veterinary care; and holistic equine health support.
- **Water:** Heated trough in winter; cleaned and refilled daily from a covered potable supply.
- **Sanitation (AOPA):** Manure is picked up daily, composted at the farthest point from neighbors, and hauled away as necessary. We follow practices consistent with **Alberta's Agricultural Operation Practices Act (AOPA)** for responsible manure management to prevent odor, pests, or runoff impacts.
- **Noise/visual impacts:** Captain is quiet by nature. Many neighbors—especially families with children—enjoy seeing him on their walks, and we maintain a clean, unobtrusive yard.

## 5) Willingness to Accept Reasonable Permit Conditions

To support the City's discretion and reassure neighbors, we are willing to accept reasonable conditions such as:

- **No commercial activity** (no lessons/boarding/events)
- **A four-year limit** **ATIA Section 20(1)** At that time, we will either (a) apply for renewal with updated support letters, or (b) relocate Captain off-site within a reasonable period if the permit is not renewed.
- Continued **daily sanitation** and compost/haul-out schedule consistent with AOPA practices.
- Permit in my personal name.
- **Annual review** if the City deems it appropriate, or earlier if substantiated concerns arise
- Maintaining fencing, enclosure, and water/heating as described
- A posted contact number for neighbors to reach us directly for any concerns

## Closing

We respectfully request approval of our application. Captain's presence is essential to our daughter's recovery and is being managed in a way that protects welfare, prevents nuisance, and contributes positively to the neighborhood. We believe this exemption balances compassion, public interest, and municipal/provincial standards.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We are available to provide any further information the City may require.

Sincerely,

**Kurt Menzies**  
12038 Cygnet Blvd  
Grande Prairie, AB T8X 1J9

Redacted Medical Information from the Public Package  
ATIA Section 20(1)

Letter of Support

From: Ellen Christopherson

Date: September 18, 2025

To: Director, Enforcement Services, City of Grande Prairie  
Re: Livestock Exemption Permit – One Horse (“Captain”) at 12038 Cygnet Blvd

Dear Director,

As JM’s stepmother, I am writing in strong support of the family’s application to keep one horse, *Captain*, at home. I bring lifelong experience with horses and previously served as Director of ROARR (Robinson Outreach at RiverCross Ranch), a non-profit equine therapy program in Calgary. Through that work, I witnessed first-hand the profound impact horses can have on both seniors and youth: within an hour of interaction, participants often relaxed, smiled, and reconnected with joy.

There is a growing body of research supporting equine-assisted interventions for youth. For example, a 2018 review in *Frontiers in Psychology* (Yorke et al.) highlights benefits for trauma and anxiety, while a 2012 study in *Clinical Child Psychology and Psychiatry* (Bachi et al.) found improvements in impulse control, confidence, and social engagement in children. These published results mirror what I have personally observed in practice.

At home, I support JM in working with Captain through consent-based, positive reinforcement (R+) methods. The relationship between them is remarkable: Captain is happiest and most engaged with her, and she has shown meaningful progress [ATIA Section 20\(1\)](#)

[ATIA Section 20\(1\)](#)

I am no longer a director of ROARR since moving away from Calgary, but I remain closely connected to the equine therapy community. Should further information be needed, the Chairperson of ROARR, Merleen Hodgson [ATIA Section 20\(1\)](#) may be contacted.

It is my firm belief that Captain’s presence at home is essential to JM’s wellbeing and recovery, and I respectfully ask that this exemption be approved.

Sincerely,

[ATIA Section 20\(1\)](#)

Ellen Christopherson

# **IN OPPOSITION OF THE APPEAL**

Attachment – Letter of Decision  
Livestock Exemption Application  
GAB 2026-001

December 15, 2025

**Kurt Menzies**  
12038 Cygnet Blvd  
Grande Prairie, AB T8X 1L9

VIA EMAIL **ATIA Section 20(1)** AND REGISTERED MAIL

**RE: Livestock Exemption Permit Application (Ref #2025-0990) - 9002 122 Avenue and 12038 Cygnet Boulevard**

Dear Mr. Menzies,

This letter is in response to your application for a Livestock Exemption Permit, submitted pursuant to Section 5.3 of the City of Grande Prairie *Animals and Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw* (Bylaw C-1226). Your application requests permission to keep one horse ("Captain") on the property located at 9002 122 Avenue, adjacent to your residence at 12038 Cygnet Boulevard.

The City has completed a comprehensive review of your application. This review included all submitted documentation (the application, responses to information requests, submitted plans, authorization from the landowner, and letters of support **ATIA Section 20(1)**, applicable City bylaws, the results of the Neighbourhood Impact Assessment (NIA) dated August 13, 2025, and the enforcement history associated with the properties.

After careful consideration of all factors, I must advise you that your application for a Livestock Exemption Permit is **denied**.

### Context

We acknowledge that your request is based on the therapeutic need for your daughter to have frequent access to the horse to support her recovery. We have carefully reviewed the information provided **ATIA Section 20(1)** emphasizing the importance of this access. The City is empathetic to your situation and recognizes the intent of your daughter's treatment plan; however, the Director must balance this need against the broader public interest and regulatory requirements of the municipality.

### Reasons for Decision

1. **Land Use Bylaw and Neighborhood Compatibility:** The properties are located in the Crystal Lake Estates neighborhood, zoned as General Residential. The keeping of livestock (including horses) is neither a permitted nor a discretionary use in this zone. The introduction of livestock into this established residential area is fundamentally inconsistent with the character of the neighborhood.
2. **Public Interest and Neighbourhood Impact:** The Director must consider the public interest when evaluating exemption requests. The City conducted a formal NIA of 19 adjacent property owners. The results indicated significant opposition: 7 opposed (37%), 2 in support (10%), and 10 provided no response (53%). Concerns raised included potential odors, noise, negative impacts on property values, and the incompatibility of livestock in a residential setting.
3. **Enforcement History and Impact on Neighbours:** The review considered the history of bylaw enforcement in respect of the properties, which includes eight (8) bylaw-related enforcement calls between 2023 and 2025. These include previous instances of the horse being kept without a permit (January 2023 and March 2025) and documented complaints regarding the management of existing pets. This history indicates that granting this exemption would likely result in continued adverse impacts on the use and enjoyment of neighboring properties and is contrary to the public interest.

## Human Rights Considerations and the Duty to Accommodate

The City has analyzed this application through a human rights lens, acknowledging the duty to accommodate disability-related needs up to the point of undue hardship.

While the City has a duty to consider reasonable adjustments to rules, this duty is balanced against the impact on the broader community and the integrity of the municipal regulatory framework. In this instance, the requested accommodation fundamentally conflicts with municipal zoning, has generated significant opposition from neighbours, and occurs in the context of a history of bylaw enforcement issues. We have determined that the adverse impact on the neighborhood and the integrity of the Land Use Bylaw constitute undue hardship on the City.

Furthermore, while we acknowledge the convenience of having the horse on-site, the City must consider whether this specific accommodation is the only viable option. Information provided indicates that therapy was previously conducted when the horse was boarded off-site (20-25 minutes away). Although less convenient, relocating the horse to an appropriately zoned boarding facility remains a viable option for continuing your daughter's therapy without infringing on the rights of your neighbours.

## Required Action and Timeline

As the Livestock Exemption Permit has been denied, the horse must be removed from the property. Failure to do so constitutes a continued violation of Section 5.3 of Bylaw C-1226.

**You are hereby directed to relocate the horse to an appropriately zoned location within thirty (30) days of the deemed receipt of this letter.**

**To account for the registered mail delivery timeline, the horse must be removed from the property on or before January 26, 2026.**

City Enforcement Services will follow up after this date to ensure compliance.

## Right to Appeal

You have the right to appeal this decision. Pursuant to the City of Grande Prairie General Appeal Board Bylaw (Bylaw C-1469), appeals of a Livestock Exemption Decision are heard by the General Appeal Board.

If you wish to appeal, you must submit a completed Notice of Appeal form to the Clerk of the General Appeal Board.

## Deadlines and Fees

- **Time Limit:** Pursuant to Section 9.7 of Bylaw C-1469, the Notice of Appeal must be received by the Clerk within fourteen (14) Calendar Days of receiving this decision letter.
- **Deemed Receipt:** As this letter is sent via registered mail, pursuant to Section 9.9 of the Bylaw, receipt is deemed to be seven (7) calendar days from the date of mailing (December 22, 2025). The appeal window opens on that date.
- **Appeal Fee:** The Notice of Appeal must be accompanied by the required appeal fee of \$100.00 plus GST, as stipulated in Section 10.1 of the Bylaw. Please note that pursuant to Section 10.2, this fee will be refunded if the Board decides in your favour.

## Request for Interim Stay (Pause of Enforcement).

Please be advised that filing an appeal does not automatically pause the direction to remove the horse. Pursuant to Section 11.1(b) of Bylaw C-1469, an Interim Stay is not

automatic for Livestock Exemption Decisions. If you wish to request that the removal direction be suspended pending the outcome of the appeal hearing, you must submit a written request for an Interim Stay to the Board along with your Notice of Appeal.

For further information on how to file an appeal, to request an Interim Stay, or to obtain the necessary forms, please contact the Clerk of the General Appeal Board Clerk at 780-357-4954 or [appeals@cityofgp.com](mailto:appeals@cityofgp.com).

We regret the disappointment this decision may cause and sincerely wish Jessica the best in her ongoing recovery.

Sincerely,

ATIA Section 20(1)

Helen Napier  
Managing Director  
Enforcement Services

# **IN OPPOSITION OF THE APPEAL**

Attachment – Order to Remedy

GAB 2026-001



P 780-538-0300 or 311  
A P.O. Bag 4000  
10205 - 98 Street  
Grande Prairie, AB T8V 6V3

**DATE:** February 25, 2026

Kurt Menzies  
12038 Cygnet Blvd  
Grande Prairie, AB T8X 1L9

VIA EMAIL **ATIA Section 20(1)** AND REGISTERED MAIL

**RE: ORDER TO REMEDY CONTRAVENTION Pursuant to Section 545 of the *Municipal Government Act*, RSA 2000, c. M-26 Subject Properties:** 9002 122 Avenue and 12038 Cygnet Boulevard, Grande Prairie, AB (**File Ref:** 2025-0990)

Dear Mr. Menzies,

This letter serves as a formal **Order to Remedy Contravention** issued to you by a Designated Officer of the City of Grande Prairie under the authority of Section 545 of the Alberta *Municipal Government Act* (MGA).

**BACKGROUND AND EXPIRED PERMIT APPEAL WINDOW** On December 15, 2025, the City of Grande Prairie issued a formal decision denying your Livestock Exemption Permit Application to keep a horse ("Captain") at 9002 122 Avenue. In that decision letter, you were directed to relocate the horse to an appropriately zoned location on or before January 26, 2026.

Please be advised that **your window of opportunity to appeal the December 15, 2025, permit denial has now expired**. As outlined in our previous correspondence, you had fourteen (14) days from the deemed receipt of that decision to file a Notice of Appeal. Because no appeal was filed within the statutory timeframe, the decision to deny your Livestock Exemption Permit is absolute, final, and binding.

**FINDINGS OF NON-COMPLIANCE**

On February 25, 2026, at 10:45 a.m. City of Grande Prairie Enforcement Services conducted a follow-up inspection of the Subject Properties. It was confirmed that the horse has not been relocated and remains on the premises in direct defiance of the January 26, 2026, compliance deadline.

Because your permit application was denied and your appeal window has closed, the continued presence of livestock on a property zoned General Residential constitutes an ongoing contravention of **Section 5.3 of the City of Grande Prairie Animals and Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw (Bylaw C-1226)**.

### **ORDER TO REMEDY CONTRAVENTION**

As a Designated Officer for the City of Grande Prairie, and pursuant to Section 545(1) of the *Municipal Government Act*, **YOU ARE HEREBY ORDERED TO:**

1. **Immediately cease** the unauthorized keeping of livestock on the Subject Properties.
2. **Remove** the horse ("Captain") from the properties located at 9002 122 Avenue and from 12038 Cygnet Boulevard.
3. **Relocate** the horse to a facility or property that is appropriately zoned for the keeping of livestock.

### **COMPLIANCE DEADLINE**

You must comply with the directions of this Order no later than **March 15, 2026**.

### **CONSEQUENCES OF FAILURE TO COMPLY**

Failure to comply with this Order by the stipulated deadline is an offence. If you do not comply, the City of Grande Prairie may, without further notice, take enforcement action which may include:

1. **Municipal Remediation (MGA s. 549):** The City may enter the property and take whatever actions or measures are necessary to remedy the contravention.
2. **Cost Recovery (MGA s. 553):** All costs and expenses incurred by the City in carrying out this Order will be charged to you. If unpaid, these costs may be added to the tax roll of 9002 122 Avenue and may form a special lien against that parcel.
3. **Fines and Prosecution:** You may be issued violation tickets under Bylaw C-1226 for each day the contravention continues, and/or the City may apply to the Court of King's Bench for an injunction compelling your compliance.

## **RIGHT TO REQUEST A REVIEW OF THIS ORDER**

*Please read carefully: You have a statutory right to request a review of this specific enforcement Order.*

Pursuant to Section 547 of the *Municipal Government Act*, you may request a review of this Order by submitting a written Notice of Appeal to the Clerk of the General Appeal Board within fourteen (14) days of receiving this Remedial Order.

Pursuant to Section 9.7 of Bylaw C-1469, the Notice of Appeal must be received by the Clerk within fourteen (14) Calendar Days of receiving this Remedial Order.

As this Remedial Order is sent via registered mail, pursuant to Section 9.9 of the Bylaw, receipt is deemed to be seven (7) calendar days from the date of mailing, March 3, 2026. The appeal window opens on that date.

The Notice of Appeal must be accompanied by the required appeal fee of \$100.00 plus GST, as stipulated in Section 10.1 of the Bylaw. Please note that pursuant to Section 10.2, this fee will be refunded if the Board decides in your favour.

For further information on how to file an appeal, or to obtain the necessary forms, please contact the Clerk of the General Appeal Board Clerk at 780-357-4954 or [appeals@cityofgp.com](mailto:appeals@cityofgp.com).

We strongly urge your immediate cooperation in this matter to avoid further enforcement actions, municipal intervention, and escalating costs. Upon removal of the horse, please contact Enforcement Services immediately so that compliance can be verified.

Sincerely,

**ATIA Section 20(1)**

**Helen Napier**

Managing Director

Enforcement Services

# **ADDITIONAL SUBMISSIONS**

**GAB 2026-001**

# **IN OPPOSITION OF THE APPEAL**

Debi Vigen-Rycroft

GAB 2026-001

Clear Form

Print Form

Reference Number 2025-0990

Date of Response

August 4, 2025

**Your Information**

Name

Vaughan + Debi Rycroft

Address

12042 Cygnet Blvd.

Postal Code

T8X 1L9

Phone (cell)

ATIA Section 20(1)

Phone (home)

ATIA Section 20(1)

**Proposed Location**

Municipal Address

12038 Cygnet Boulevard / Property Adjacent at 9002 122 Avenue

Type of Building

House

**Animal Information**

Animal Species

Horse

Quantity

1

Description of Enclosure

The animal will be kept within a secure enclosure on the private property, which includes electrical fencing and a heated stall.

**Your Response**

Support Application

Oppose Application

Briefly describe your view regarding this Livestock Exemption request in the space provided below.

This is not Crystal Lake Farms. Mr. Menzies has cats + dogs that cause problems in the neighborhood since he started living here and even as of today his cat is in our yard killing birds + urinating in our garden.

**Submit Form**

Email

Submit completed form and all supporting documentation to [es\\_contact@gppolice.com](mailto:es_contact@gppolice.com)

**FOIP Act Policy**

This information is being collected under the Authority of Section 33(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act, RSA 2000, c. F-25, as amended from time to time, and may be used for the administration of City of Grande Prairie programs including publicity materials. Your personal information is protected by the privacy provisions of the FOIP Act. Please forward any questions or concerns to the FOIP Coordinator at 10205 - 98 Street, Grande Prairie, AB T8V 2E7, [citycls@cityofgp.com](mailto:citycls@cityofgp.com).



Cat

Killing birds  
his pets have no  
tags

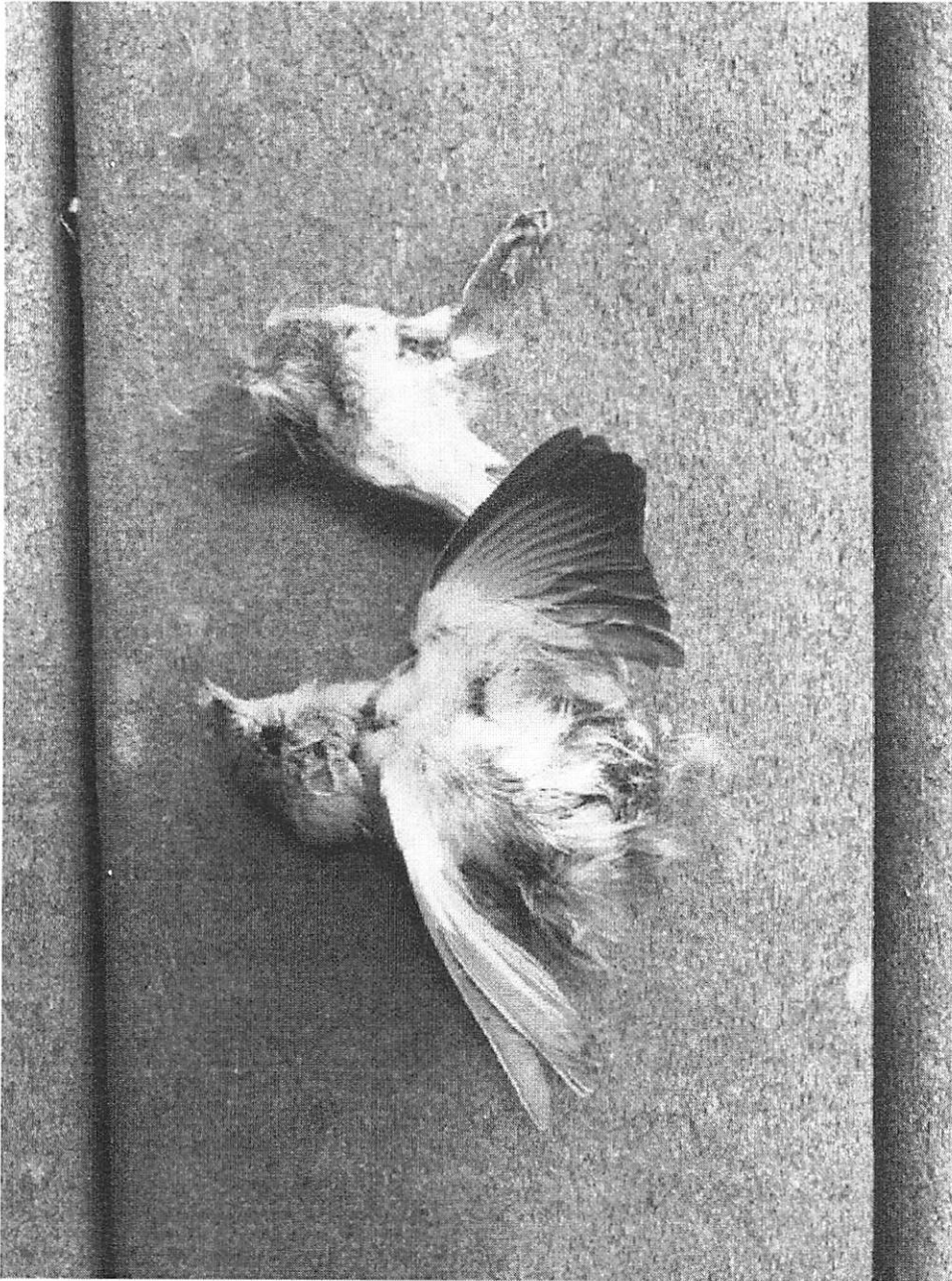


Cat just urinated in our  
Garden



cat coming back + urinating  
again on a daily basis

have text + text Mr. Menzies  
on numerous occasions about  
his dogs + cats in our yard  
over 2 1/2 yrs.



cat killing bird



cat killing bird



Cat poop  
In our rock  
garden & the  
cat digs out  
rocks & throws  
on lawn

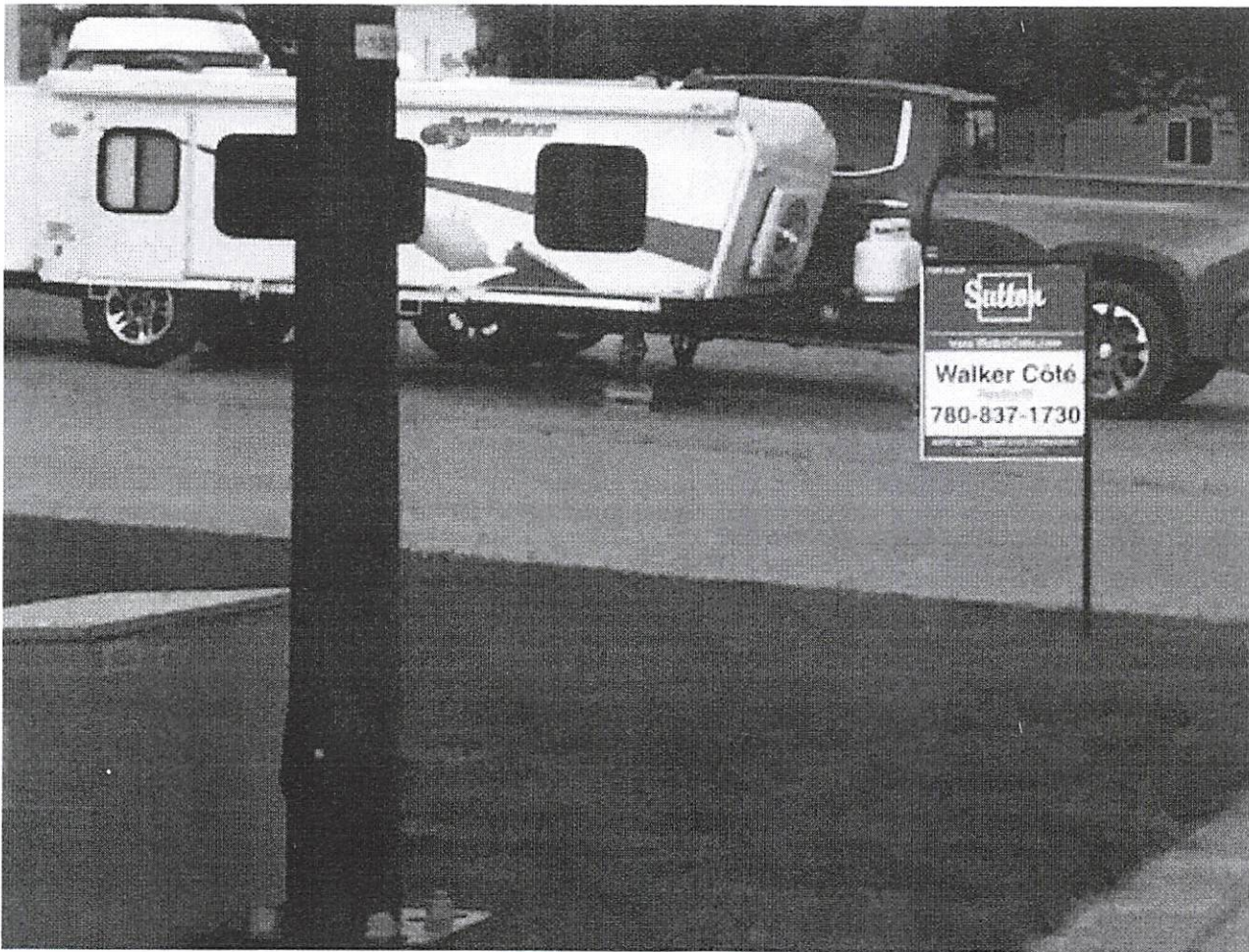


Dogs digging under fence  
from INSIDE our yard



Wade  
Pear  
Kevin  
D'Jool  
Gladys  
Blackmore  
have been  
to our  
house  
cannot  
believe  
what's  
going on

City manager - Shane Bourke - and  
Chief Public + Protective Services - Dan Lemieux  
were at my house on July 31 and  
observed all my concerns with the pets  
& animals of Mr. Menzies plus the easement  
problem + the fact that Mr. Menzies does not  
own either property which he is not an  
owner or director of but yet we have to  
put up with his crap every year for the  
last 2 yrs



Norm + Natalie Jaemblay have sold  
+ moved out of GP because of  
Mr. Menzies' parties, dogs, cats +  
horse that he had here on 3 other  
occasions which by-law eventually  
had him remove because residents  
were not happy + now going through  
this crap again

To: All Those Affected Directly by the Proposed Livestock Exemption Request  
Reference #2025-0990

As you must be all aware by now, one of the neighbors has submitted an application for an exemption to house one horse on their open space adjacent to their property. This is just a little food for thought regarding this proposal.

We all bought in this neighborhood because it was upscale and classified as an "ESTATE" area. Which it should remain as such. We paid dearly to have no multi-family dwellings: such as apartments as well as no buildings higher than 2 stories etc. We also had certain building codes we all had to adhere to when our houses were built.

The following is a list of some concerns we have and would like to bring them to your attention.

1. There could be potential views of the lake & trees blocked from the horse barn located close to neighboring back yards (Area is not identified)
2. This exemption starts with 1 horse but could lead up to licenses for 4 of each species (By-Law C-1226) eg. Horse, cow, pigs, goats etc. C-1.19
3. Horses need exercise and care "need to run at large" meaning anywhere on the property. Example: while "trotting" around they can be behind your house, leaning over your fence eating your trees and flowers.
4. The smell's emanating from Livestock as it runs around defecating and emitting flatulence (farting)
5. Potential loss in value of your property if this is allowed
6. The acreage was originally envisioned by "Pat Gorman" who developed Crystal Lake as an "ESTATE" subdivision and originally wanted this parcel to be developed into a "retirement home setting". The owner who purchased it from him was a Developer and wanted to put a 3-story high building on it. The owners in this sub-division immediately voted against

this, as the height restriction was **NOT ALLOWED** in the area. It then sat on the market for quite a few years and then sold to a family as a private residence.

7. There might be the possibility of "Grand Fathering" the exemption permit to future owners, who may feel that if this was "OK" then, **WHY NOT NOW!!**
8. **Livestock noises:** such as whinnying, neighing etc. Could disrupt your sleep and is a potential disruptor in general. Like when a dog barks
9. If I wanted to live amongst farm animals I would have bought an acreage out of town. The city is no place for livestock.

Also, this proposal should have gone out to everyone in this sub-division, if not all of them, but especially all those living on Crystal Lake Boulevard. Not just the hand full of residents that were informed. Which was probably only 14 of us in total.

I hope you will make the right decision.

**NOT HAPPY CAMPERS**

Concerns can be e-mailed to [es\\_contact@gppolice.com](mailto:es_contact@gppolice.com)  
or at

Enforcement Services 10202-99<sup>th</sup> St. (RAMP Bldg)  
beside Court House

Prior to Aug. 13/25

# **IN OPPOSITION OF THE APPEAL**

Anonymous Submission

GAB 2026-001

We all bought in this neighborhood because it was upscale and classified as an "ESTATE" area. Which it should remain as such. We paid dearly to have no multi-family dwellings: such as apartments as well as no buildings higher than 2 stories etc. We also had certain building codes we all had to adhere to when our houses were built.

The following is a list of some concerns we have and would like to bring them to your attention.

1. There could be potential views of the lake & trees blocked from the horse barn located close to neighboring back yards (Area is not identified)
2. This exemption starts with 1 horse but could lead up to licenses for 4 of each species (By-Law C-1226) eg. Horse, cow, pigs, goats etc. C-1.19
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5. Potential loss in value of your property if this is allowed
6. The acreage was originally envisioned by "Pat Gorman" who developed Crystal Lake as an "ESTATE" subdivision and originally wanted this parcel to be developed into a "retirement home setting". The owner who purchased it from him was a Developer and wanted to put a 3-story high building on it. The owners in this sub-division immediately voted against this, as the height restriction was NOT ALLOWED in the area. It then sat on the market for quite a few years and then sold to a family as a private residence.
7. There might be the possibility of "Grand Fathering" the exemption permit to future owners, who may feel that if this was "OK" then, WHY NOT NOW!!
8. Livestock noises: such as whinnying, neighing etc. Could disrupt your sleep and is a potential disruptor in general. Like when a dog barks
9. If I wanted to live amongst farm animals I would have bought an acreage out of town. The city is no place for livestock.

**Also, this proposal should have gone out to everyone in this sub-division, if not all of them, but especially all those living on Crystal Lake Boulevard. Not just the hand full of residents that were informed. Which was probably only 14 of us in total.**

# **IN FAVOUR OF THE APPEAL**

Gallagher

GAB 2026-001

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Properties: 9002 122 Avenue & 12038 Cygnet Boulevard  
**Date:** Thursday, April 09, 2026 5:31:46 PM

You don't often get email from [ATIA Section 20\(1\)](#). [Learn why this is important](#)

This email originated from outside of the organization! Do not click links, open attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe!

To the General Appeal Board,

We are writing in support of our neighbor's application to keep their horse, Captain, at 9002 122 Avenue.

As neighbors across the street, we have seen Captain on the property and have only had positive experiences. He is calm, gentle, and clearly well cared for.

It is also clear that Captain plays an important role for the family's daughter. From what we have seen, he is steady, kind, and well suited to the therapeutic purpose he serves. The connection there is obvious, and we believe that matters.

As a family, we have also been in a somewhat similar situation ourselves. When our next-door neighbors wanted chickens, I was skeptical at first and, to be honest, against it. Still, I signed off and kept an open mind because I respect my neighbor's and value living in a community where people try to understand one another. Since they got the chickens, I have come to really enjoy the sounds they make and am glad they are there. That experience reminded us that not every concern turns into a problem, and sometimes being open-minded makes a neighborhood better.

It is disappointing to see such a lack of compassion and understanding from some members of the community. Captain is not some nuisance or threat. He is a beautiful animal, not confined in a cage in a backyard, and frankly we feel lucky to occasionally look out and see him standing peacefully in the sun here in Northern Alberta. That is not something that takes away from a neighborhood. It adds to it.

In our view, Captain is a positive presence and the family have been responsible owners. We fully support their application and would be genuinely disappointed to see him removed.

Thanks,

The Gallagher's

12021 Cygnet Boulevard

# **IN FAVOUR OF THE APPEAL**

Kerith Bursey

GAB 2026-001

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** 9902 122 Avenue 8, 12038 Cygnet Boulevard  
**Date:** Thursday, April 09, 2026 9:05:17 PM  
**Attachments:** ATIA Section 20(1)

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

This email originated from outside of the organization! Do not click links, open attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe!

To Whom It May Concern,

Our family has truly come to love having Captain in the neighbourhood, and we wanted to share our full support for our neighbours' application to keep him on their property.

We spend a lot of time at the property, and Captain has honestly become a highlight for all of us. When he runs across the yard, everyone — kids and adults — ends up at the window. It's something so simple, but it brings a lot of joy. He adds a warmth and life to the space that you don't often find, and it's something we've really come to appreciate.

He is a calm, quiet, and very well-settled horse. We have never had any concerns with noise or smell, and from everything we've seen, he is extremely well cared for and happy. It's clear the family puts a lot of time, effort, and genuine care into making sure he is looked after properly.

We also understand that Captain plays a therapeutic role for their daughter, and that is something we feel strongly about supporting. Seeing the positive impact he has is meaningful, and it's hard to overstate how valuable that kind of support can be for a family.

Kurt Menzies and his family are also very involved in the community and often host events that bring people together. They truly add to everyone's lives, and Captain has naturally become part of that — adding even more connection and joy to those moments.

As direct neighbours, we can confidently say he stays within his space and has never caused any issues for us. Everything is well maintained, respectful, and handled responsibly.

We fully support this application without hesitation. This is a thoughtful, caring family, and Captain is clearly in the right place. We would also have no concerns if a companion horse was ever needed in the future.

Sincerely,  
Kerith Bursey  
12114 Cygnet Blvd  
April.09.2026

Kerith Bursey  
Executive Administrator



ATIA Section 20(1)

# **IN FAVOUR OF THE APPEAL**

Joy Pruden

GAB 2026-001

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Appeals](#)  
**Subject:** Letter of Support – Captain the Horse at 9002 122 Avenue / 12038 Cygnet Boulevard  
**Date:** Monday, April 13, 2026 2:19:02 PM

---

To the Members of the City of Grande Prairie General Appeal Board,

My name is Joy Pruden and I am a resident of Grande Prairie. I am writing to express my strong support for Captain the Horse being permitted to remain at 9002 122 Avenue, within the city limits of Grande Prairie.

I have had the pleasure of visiting Captain on numerous occasions, and I can confidently say he is an exceptional animal. Captain is quiet, patient, gentle, and possesses a remarkably calm and kind temperament. His demeanor makes him not only safe to be around but also deeply comforting to those who spend time with him.

Captain has brought an incredible amount of joy and emotional support into my life and the lives of my children. Spending time with him has been a positive and grounding experience for our family. Horses are widely recognized for their therapeutic benefits, and Captain exemplifies this. Interacting with horses has been shown to reduce stress, lower anxiety, and support emotional well-being. Their calm presence encourages mindfulness, connection, and a sense of peace—something that is increasingly important in today’s busy and often stressful world.

Captain is more than just a horse; he serves as a source of mental health support and emotional comfort. His presence provides a unique opportunity for connection with nature and animals, which is especially valuable for children and families.

In addition, Captain is kept in a responsible and well-maintained environment. He resides on five acres of fenced land, which provides ample space for him to move freely, exercise, and engage in natural behaviors essential to his well-being. This amount of land is more than sufficient to ensure a healthy and humane living condition.

Furthermore, his care is clearly a priority—his area is kept clean, and waste is removed daily, demonstrating responsible ownership and consideration for the surrounding community.

Captain poses no harm or nuisance. Instead, he is a peaceful and positive presence. Allowing him to remain would support not only his well-being but also the well-being of those who benefit from his companionship.

I respectfully urge the Board to consider the significant emotional, mental, and community value Captain provides, as well as the responsible care and appropriate space he is given. Captain truly deserves to stay in his home.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Joy Leah Pruden

# **IN FAVOUR OF THE APPEAL**

Morgan & Darin Dunphy

GAB 2026-001

City of Grande Prairie - General Appeal Board

Subject Properties: Horse at 9002 122 Avenue

To Whom It May Concern,

We have been watching Captain from our window for some time now, and when we heard that the permit was under review, we knew we wanted to put our support in writing.

We do not share a fence line with the property, but we have a clear, direct view of it, and that view has been genuinely improved by Captain's presence. Our whole family enjoys watching him. We eagerly wait to see what he is doing, and my children scream in delight when they see Captain.

He is peaceful to look at and he carries himself well. Nothing about his setup obstructs our view or creates any kind of visual nuisance. Only enhances it.

We are aware that Captain is there to serve a therapeutic purpose for the family's daughter, and we think that speaks well of the family's intentions. From what we observe, Captain is calm, healthy, and clearly well looked after. There are no odours, we have never heard him make a sound that has carried to our home, and we see no signs of neglect or distress.

From our vantage point we have also noticed that Captain tends to stay well within the property rather than pressing up against the boundaries. He seems settled and at ease in his environment.

We fully support this application and would have no objection at all to a second horse joining him. This has been nothing but a positive presence in our neighbourhood.

We ask that you please let this beautiful horse stay in our neighborhood.  
Captain is a part of the joy of living on Cygnet Blvd.

Sincerely,

Morgan & Darin Dunphy

12122 Cygnet Blvd, GP, AB, T8X1N3

April 13, 2026

# **IN FAVOUR OF THE APPEAL**

Neal Fraser

GAB 2026-001

April 13, 2026

To the General Appeal Board,

I am writing as a neighbouring resident in support of the appeal filed by Kurt Menzies regarding the horse kept at 9002 122 Avenue and 12038 Cygnet Boulevard. I respectfully ask the Board to consider overturning or modifying the Order to Remedy.

As a neighbour, I have had the pleasure of observing this horse firsthand. Far from being a nuisance, Captain has been a source of therapeutic value for his owners. Since his arrival I have never seen behaviour from him that has caused me any concern, and neither have I detected foul odours or experienced any other negative aspect arising from his presence. On the contrary, those in my household find serendipity in catching glimpses of him simply existing in his City oasis. I believe that Captain's presence enriches the neighbourhood.

Mr. Menzies and his family have been active in our neighbourhood for many years, hosting social events to foster a local sense of community, as well as philanthropic events in support of important charitable organizations such as the Bandaged Paws Animal Rescue Association. I mention this here simply to illustrate Mr. Menzies' community minded, reasonable and collaborative approach.

I have full confidence in the City of Grande Prairie's ability to craft appropriate conditions that would adequately address concerns while permitting the horse to remain. I respectfully ask that the Board weigh any hypothetical concerns — such as the potential for additional livestock or the construction of outbuildings — against the concrete, demonstrated value this horse already provides. Speculative future concerns should not drive a decision that may cause real and immediate harm to an animal and its owner. From my perspective, a conditions-based approach offers a measured and fair path forward.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I trust the Board will give this matter the thoughtful attention it deserves.

Respectfully submitted,

Neal Fraser

12102 Cygnet Boulevard

Grande Prairie, Alberta

ATIA Section 20(1)