

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 28, 2014

Item 1, Report No. 4, of the Committee of the Whole (Working Session), which was adopted, as amended, by the Council of the City of Vaughan on January 28, 2014, as follows:

By approving the following:

- 1) ***That the following recommendation, as set out in Communication C9 from the Commissioner of Legal & Administrative Service/City Solicitor and the Director of By-law & Compliance, dated January 27, 2014, be approved:***

That consideration of including constrictor snakes in Prohibited Species Schedule 'B' of the Vaughan Animal Control By-law # 53-2002 be deferred, maintaining the existing size restriction of not larger than 3 metres, pending further review and consultation with Reptilia Inc., and other pet industry stakeholders as required.; and

That Communication C7 from Mr. Andre Ngo, Reptile Zoo and Education Facility, Rutherford Road, Vaughan, dated January 26, 2014, be received.

1 VAUGHAN ANIMAL SERVICES BY-LAW REVIEW & COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

The Committee of the Whole (Working Session) recommends:

- 2) **That the recommendation contained in the following report of the Commissioner of Legal & Administrative Services/City Solicitor and Director of By-law and Compliance, dated January 21, 2014, be approved;**
- 3) **That Communication C4, presentation material entitled, “Animal Control By-law #53-2002 Proposed Amendments”, be received;**
- 4) **That the following deputations and communications be received:**
 1. **Ms. Lauren D’Alessandro, Woodbridge;**
 2. **Mr. Paul Oliver, Urban Nature Store, East Mall, Toronto and Communication C2, dated January 20, 2014; and**
 3. **Ms. Liz White, Animal Alliance of Canada, Broadview Avenue, Toronto and Communication C3, dated January 21, 2014; and**
- 5) **That Communication C1 from Mr. Louis McCann, President and CEO, PIJAC Canada, Polytek Street, Ottawa, dated January 20, 2014, be received.**

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Legal & Administrative Services/City Solicitor and Director of By-law and Compliance recommend:

1. **That Animal Control By-law 53-2002, as amended, be further amended in accordance with the recommendations contained within this Report, to include:**
 - a. **restrictions to better address aggressive or menacing dog behaviours in order to minimize the potential of a bite or future incident;**
 - b. **restrictions that prohibit dogs from being left unattended or tethered in places that may create a possible risk to humans, themselves or other animals;**

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 28, 2014

Item 1, CW(W/S) Report No. 4 – Page 2

- c. restrictions on the feeding of wildlife or use of wildlife attractants in order to prevent the intentional or unintentional luring of animals in residential areas;
 - d. restrictions on the sale of dogs and cats in pet stores and retail establishments, unless sourced from a shelter, humane society or rescue organization;
 - e. adoption of an improved schedule of prohibited species;
 - f. delegation of authority to the City's Hearings Officer to preside over appeal hearings regarding the By-law; and
2. That Fees and Charges By-law 396-2002, as amended, be further amended to reflect the introduction of an appeal process fee of \$125.

Contribution to Sustainability

Adoption of the recommendations contained within this Report reflects a more progressive and proactive approach intended to reduce proliferation of strays resulting from unwanted and abandoned pets, and greater protection of health and well-being of our communities, environment and natural wildlife.

Economic Impact

The recommendations within this Report include the establishment of a new fee of \$125 for appeals relating to muzzling orders or other restrictions imposed with respect to a menacing or biting dog, in order to offset related costs of administering the appeal process. The City of Vaughan 2014-2017 Budget Guidelines – User Fees identifies that it is inherent within the budget process to maximize costs recovered on services provided, inclusive of submissions for new “user fee” opportunities for existing non-revenue generating services.

Staff expect an increase in appeal applications with the introduction of the authority to impose preventative control measures through issuance of Orders under the By-law. An estimated projection of 10% of possible Orders issued may result in an expected 8 to 10 appeal applications in 2014 at a fee of \$125 per application. This increase is based on logical projection and review of 85 dog bite investigations having been carried out in 2013. Further, with the City's annual hearings schedule through the Administrative Monetary Penalty program providing three hearing dates per month, staff anticipate that the increase in related appeal hearings can be accommodated within the current hearings schedule. However, should a demand arise for scheduling of additional hearing dates, the additional projected \$1,250 (10 appeals @ \$125) appeal fee revenue will recover costs associated with two additional full days of hearings, without increased financial pressure on the projected 2014 Departmental operating budget.

Implementation of the Communication Strategy developed by staff, at the request of Council, to advance responsible pet ownership will require funding. Providing and sustaining public outreach, education and awareness initiatives is becoming increasingly challenging. Although the Department continues to capitalize on “in-kind” services through partnering with Corporate Communications, Access Vaughan and other departments, the demands to sustain this focus is outpacing Departmental fiscal assets and resources (both human and financial). During the 2013 fiscal year, in excess of 200 over-time service hours were attributed to attending events outside of core business hours (after 6:00 pm and on weekends), with an additional \$7,000 spent on promotional materials. Estimated costs associated with sustaining a similar level of public outreach are projected at \$9,000+ in continued over-time hours and an estimated 30% increase (approximately \$3,000) for

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 28, 2014

Item 1, CW(WS) Report No. 4 – Page 3

additional promotional materials. As public awareness and knowledge increases, staff anticipate an increase in demand for attendance at public forums and events adding pressure to current limited resources.

Communications Plan

Upon adoption of the amending By-law, communication and public outreach will be facilitated through notification to key industry stakeholders, pet industry partners and known advocates. Information pamphlets identifying key changes will be made available at community centres, the Vaughan Animal Shelter, By-law & Compliance Office at City Hall, distributed by field officers and provided at public events and forums.

Staff will continue to seek opportunities to educate youth on the importance of responsible pet ownership and bite prevention, through attendance at school functions and improved partnerships with school officials, as time and resources permit.

In addition to the above, staff will continue to partner with Corporate Communications in the further development of our current public outreach campaign, including publicizing of newly adopted By-law amendments, such as introduction of an appeal fee, through use of the City's website and social media solutions.

Purpose

The purpose of this Report is to:

- 1) Provide Council with an update on the Communication Strategy that has been implemented by the By-law & Compliance Department (Animal Services Section) to promote responsible pet ownership in relation to unleashed dogs in the City of Vaughan, in response to Council direction dated March 8, 2011 (Attachment # 1 – Excerpt of Council Meeting Minutes - Report No. 11, Item 9);
- 2) Introduce recommended amendments to the Animal Control By-law that will:
 - a. Minimize the potential for dog bites/attacks through improved regulatory authority;
 - b. Restrict the sale of dogs and cats from pet stores and retail establishments;
 - c. Create an improved Prohibited Animal Schedule to the By-law;
 - d. Prohibit the feeding of wildlife and use of wildlife attractants;
 - e. Delegate authority of hearing appeals to the City's appointed Hearings Officer; and
- 3) Introduce recommended amendments to the Fees & Charges By-law to establish a fee for appeal of orders (eg: Muzzle Orders).

These recommendations are being proposed to improve health, safety, consumer protection and animal welfare.

Background - Analysis and Options

At its meeting of March 8, 2011, City Council directed staff to develop a Communication Strategy to make dog owners aware of their responsibility to manage their pets as required by law. Staff was to provide a report to a future Committee of the Whole meeting regarding actions taken in response to unleashed dogs and dog attacks in the community.

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 28, 2014

Item 1, CW(WS) Report No. 4 – Page 4

In response to the direction of City Council, staff developed and implemented an extensive Communication Strategy to further advance responsible pet ownership within the City, as well as bringing forward proposed improvements to the Animal Control By-law that will allow staff to more effectively address circumstances relating to aggressive dog behaviours. In the context of developing these proposed amendments and development of a Communication Strategy, staff undertook a fulsome review of the Animal Control By-law, with an emphasis on relevance and suitability to current and future community needs, and identified other areas of the Animal Control By-law that required improvement.

In preparation for this Report, staff consulted with industry stakeholders, including pet store retailers, such as: PJ's Pet Centres; Safari Pet Centres Vaughan Mills; Pet Valu; PetSmart; the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council of Canada (PIJAC Canada); the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA); The Association of Animal Administrators of Ontario; Canadian Federation of Humane Societies and animal advocacy groups. Vaughan Animal Services continues to dialogue with residents of the City of Vaughan through contact with the public, proactive outreach and educational initiatives on an ongoing basis.

In addition, a public consultation was held on November 20, 2013 at City Hall regarding the recommendations contained within this Report. Public Notice was delivered through media publications and the City's website. At the public consultation meeting, staff provided a presentation summarizing the main themes of the proposed recommendations. There was no opposition with respect to the proposed amendments. Areas of interest identified by the public included additional off-leash parks and/or consideration of expanded use of existing parkland allowing for dogs to be off-leash during designated times and/or identified areas. In addition, further comments included an interest to reduce or eliminate the restriction of having to keep dogs on a leash, claiming the By-law was ineffective and restricts responsible pet owners from allowing their dogs off-leash for proper socialization. Although staff acknowledged the comments provided, consideration of additional off-leash dog parks or expanded use of current parklands was not within the scope or purpose of this particular consultation, the Animal Services By-law review or proposed amendments.

A comparison of other municipalities' by-laws was completed in preparation for this Report (See Attachment #2).

COMMUNICATION STRATEGY AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Website and Social Media

Although the Resolution from Council in March of 2011 focused mainly on unleashed dogs, there are many other facets of responsible pet ownership, such as vaccination, pet identification and pet licensing, all of which are required by the Animal Control By-law. Staff has undertaken several communication and public outreach initiatives to educate dog owners and improve awareness in these areas.

With the ever increasing reliance on technology for gathering and receiving information, a key component of the Communication Strategy involves partnering with Corporate Communications, for improvement of the City's websites and the use of social media. Improvements to the Animal Services website includes easier navigation, enhanced information regarding pet vaccination, pet licensing, direct links to related by-laws and other relevant resources, such as urban wildlife information, neighbouring animal shelters/humane societies, relevant provincial agencies, etc.

Staff is also utilizing Facebook to advertise a variety of Animal Services' initiatives, including but not limited to, events, responsible pet ownership tips and By-law

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 28, 2014

Item 1, CW(WS) Report No. 4 – Page 5

requirements. The use of Facebook has improved accessibility of Animal Services, enabled residents to pose questions, inquiries and offer comments for response by Animal Services' staff. Facebook has proven to be a valuable resource, featuring specific pets, photos of available adoption animals and generating many adoption inquiries; as well as an effective mode of communication for clients to post pictures and provide updates on the progress of their newly adopted pets. Animal Services receives many inquiries regarding volunteer opportunities posted therein.

Most recently in October 2013, By-law & Compliance Animal Services staff worked collaboratively with staff from Corporate Communications in the development and successful launch of information regarding the feeding of wildlife through the City's new blog page.

Promotional Material

Recognizing that some residents do not use social media or access websites, staff developed an information pamphlet which outlines the provisions in the Animal Control By-law pertaining to animals running at large and provides useful tips for preventing dog bites, such as spaying and neutering, socializing and proper supervision. These information pamphlets are available at the City of Vaughan Animal Shelter and By-law & Compliance Department office at Vaughan City Hall, and continue to be distributed at all public events and by Animal Control Officers when engaging the public in the field. In addition to pamphlets, staff developed and offered auto magnets and business card magnets for a small donation, which offered residents convenient access to contact information for Animal Services. Staff continues to utilize all available avenues and explore new opportunities to improve and expand public outreach and awareness.

Special Event Participation and Education

Another key component of the communication public outreach strategy is the participation of Animal Services staff in a number of special events and other public venues/forms. Since 2011, staff participated in a number of events, including but not limited to the following:

- a) Man's Best Friend Show (Vaughan Citizen);
- b) Maplefest (Vaughan);
- c) Carrot Fest (Bradford);
- d) Schomberg Fair (King);
- e) Bradford County Fair (Bradford);
- f) Maple Lions Pancake Festival (Vaughan);
- g) Concerts in the Park (Vaughan);
- h) Vaughan Safety Expo (Vaughan Mills Mall);
- i) Santa Fest Parade (Vaughan);
- j) Operation V.A.L.U.E "Vulnerable Animals Left Unattended Everyday" (Vaughan Mills Mall);

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 28, 2014

Item 1, CW(W/S) Report No. 4 – Page 6

- k) Movember (Vaughan);
- l) City TV News “Pick A Pet” to showcase adoption animals;
- m) Vaughan TV (City Hall);
- n) Reptillia Camp;
- o) Special Adoption Events (held semi-annually);
- p) Rabies and Microchip Clinics (held semi-annually);
- q) Attendance at satellite Cat Adoption centers (PetSmart & Pet Valu).

Staff also participated in various school initiatives to engage, educate and improve awareness amongst the students at Seneca College and Maple Montessori School.

This enhanced focus on public education and awareness is further emphasized by Animal Control Officers while carrying out their duties in the communities. Animal Control Officers distribute promotional materials and educate residents focusing on the benefits of responsible pet ownership and related By-law requirements at any opportunity that may arise while in the field, including during the course of investigations and when responding to public inquiries and complaints. Animal Services staff continue to attend public events, engage with educational institutions and seek future opportunities for greater outreach and improved public awareness as time and resources permit.

BITING, MENACING AND UNLEASHED DOGS

In the course of creating a Communication Strategy for responsible pet ownership, staff also identified proposed improvements to the Animal Control By-law in an attempt to further prevent the possibility of attacks by unleashed dogs in the City.

Currently, the Animal Control By-law automatically requires a dog that has bitten to be muzzled and leashed when not on the premises of the owner and to be restrained when on the premises of the owner (such as a secure and fenced yard). Although these current regulatory provisions serve as a preventative measure following an occurrence, the current by-law provisions offer no avenue for prevention prior to an attack, is only triggered once a dog has bitten and is only enforceable if the dog was impounded by staff for being at large. There are many situations in which Animal Control Officers respond to and investigate complaints regarding aggressive dogs where there may be a likelihood that the dog may bite in the future, however, preventative restrictions cannot be ordered until the dog actually bites.

Pursuant to the Dog Owners' Liability Act of Ontario, the City may commence proceedings in the Ontario Court of Justice to obtain an Order requiring preventative measures for a menacing dog, including a muzzling order, a destruction order or any other effective control measures the Court deems advisable. However, these proceedings are costly, lengthy and therefore not entirely effective.

A review of departmental records for the period of 2012 and 2013 revealed that the By-law & Compliance Department received and investigated approximately 410 calls for service/case files regarding unleashed dogs and 125 calls regarding alleged dog attacks. These records include case files within King Township and Bradford West Gwillimbury, since these two municipalities are presently under service contract to Vaughan Animal Services.

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 28, 2014

Item 1, CW(WS) Report No. 4 – Page 7

Within the City of Vaughan, records reflect 174 case files relating to dogs off-leash and 85 relating to alleged dog bites/attacks for the same period. As a result of the 85 dog bite investigations, 2 charges were laid, 1 muzzle order proceeding commenced and an Order was granted through the Ontario Court of Justice pursuant to the *Dog Owners' Liability Act* of Ontario and 3 animals were euthanized by Vaughan Animal Services (1 stray and 2 surrendered by the dog owners). Of the remaining 79 investigations, 1 dog was released to Toronto Animal Services; with the remaining 78 cases concluding due to insufficient information/lack of evidence or the inability to consider or impose preventative measures. In all cases, resolution included educating the dog owners regarding responsible pet ownership.

Of the 174 off-leash dog case files, 18 charges were laid, with the remaining cases resulting in insufficient information/lack of evidence to proceed and education of the dog owners.

Accordingly, staff are recommending that the City adopt a more effective and proactive approach to deal with aggressive dog behaviours by supporting the proposed amendments to the Animal Control By-law to grant authority to issue Orders where there are reasonable grounds to believe that a dog may or is likely to bite in the future. Proposed changes within the By-law include the ability to impose preventative control measures, allowing staff to act without the need for a dog to be found at large. Reasonable grounds would include, but are not limited to, menacing or threatening behaviours, previous occurrences, history and any other relevant information as identified and determined during the course of an investigation.

In addition to imposing restrictions or effective controls such as being muzzled, leashed or otherwise restrained accordingly, staff recommend that the Animal Control By-law be further amended to increase the measures that can be ordered and/or imposed. These may include but are not limited to: prohibitions on any person under the age of 18 from walking the dog; the dog be microchipped and sterilized; and that there be warning signage posted at the owner's home. These additional preventative measures effectively mitigate risk to both the public at large and to the dog owner(s). Staff believe these proposed improvements will better assist in mitigating and/or preventing the possibility of future dog bites in the City. Similar restrictions exist in other municipalities' by-laws.

To ensure fairness and due process, the Animal Control By-law currently provides for appeals of muzzling, leashing or other restraining Orders to be heard before Council or Committee of Council. This appeal is akin to a court process: evidence is entered; witnesses are subject to examination and cross-examination; and legal submissions are made. In this respect, members of Council are acting as quasi-judicial officers. Given the demanding schedule of Council, scheduling of additional meetings and obtaining quorum for hearings, these appeals may be difficult to process. Accordingly, staff recommends that the appropriate amendments be made to the Animal Control By-law delegating the appeal function to the City's Hearings Officer, currently appointed and presiding over appeals pursuant to the City's Administrative Monetary Penalty ("AMP") program.

UNATTENDED DOGS

Staff identified the need for further amendments to the By-law to clarify expectations in any public off-leash park in order to mitigate potential for aggressive scenarios. Recommended amendments will include restrictions to ensure that dogs are not left tethered and unattended in places that may create a possible risk to humans, the animals themselves or other animals.

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 28, 2014

Item 1, CW(W/S) Report No. 4 – Page 8

WILDLIFE ATTRACTANTS

Proposed amendments include prohibiting the feeding of wildlife or the use of attractants in order to prevent intentional or unintentional/accidental luring of wild animals into areas that places wildlife and citizens in circumstances that may lead to unprovoked interaction with one another (eg: urban areas). Proposed recommendations offer additional benefits in line with and supportive of existing regulatory by-laws, by providing the ability to address and deter activities that can lead or contribute to poor property conditions. New proposed amendments will also prohibit the use of leg-hold traps (used as a capture method), which can be very dangerous to unintended victims, such as domestic animals and/or children. Staff have determined similar restrictions exist in the City of Mississauga's By-law, but are not addressed consistently within many other municipalities' by-laws.

PROHIBITED ANIMALS

Prohibited animals are currently identified through a Schedule of the Animal Control By-law. Proposed amendments will include prohibition of the keeping of raptors (birds of prey) and a prohibition on the keeping of constrictors (snakes). To minimize the possibility of a negative impact to any existing pet retailers who may house an inventory of constrictors for sale within the City of Vaughan, staff will be introducing the appropriate amending language providing retailers one year from passing of the By-law to retail their inventory accordingly.

In addition, staff recommend clarification of the language within the prohibited species section, making the By-law easier for public consumption and understanding; and the establishment of a list of criteria for traveling circuses to address public interest and safety. This criterion includes confirmation of animal security and right of inspection to ensure adequate conditions and vaccination protocols. Staff has determined that varied restrictions exist in other municipalities' by-laws.

RESTRICTION OF DOG AND CAT SALES IN PET STORES & RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS

Restriction of the sale of dogs and cats by pet stores and all retail establishments has been raised as a concern by various citizens and the broader public at large. Concerns have included that the majority of dog and cat sales through retail establishments are sold at an age where the dogs or cats are too young to be spayed, neutered or adequately vaccinated; in essence adding to further proliferation of unwanted pets, risk of transmissible diseases such as rabies, and increased demands placed on Animal Services in many municipalities.

In August 2013, the By-law & Compliance Department was made aware of an electronic Facebook petition initiated by a public advocate in support of this ban. At the time this Report was prepared, this Facebook petition remained active with over 3000+ supporters responding from around the world.

In response to many of these inquiries and above-noted concerns, staff undertook to investigate community interests by initiating a comparative review of other municipalities (Attachment #2) and consultation with key industry stakeholders. Staff consulted with the pet retail industry, namely PJ's Pet Centres, Safari Pet Centres Vaughan Mills, Pet Valu, PetSmart; along with the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council of Canada (PIJAC), the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA), Dr Catherine Filejski – Public Health Veterinarian of Health Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, and animal advocacy representatives. The following consultation results chart provides the following findings:

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 28, 2014

Item 1, CW(WS) Report No. 4 – Page 9

PET INDUSTRY CONSULTATION RESULTS CHART	
ORGANIZATION	COMMENTS / RATIONALE FOR SUPPORTING A BAN
Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care - Dr. Catherine Filejski, Public Health Veterinarian	Public Health and Protection - Greater prevention and control of spread of zoonotic diseases through preventative disease control. Improved health and well-being of the animals, reducing the likelihood of rabies transmissions to both animals and humans.
Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA)	Animal welfare. Supports interests of the OSPCA.
Humane Society of Canada	Reduces the burden of unwanted pets surrendered to animal shelters. Minimizes prevalence of animal overpopulation, abandoned animals and strays.
PJ's Pets	Pro-actively moved to facilitating animal adoptions in the interest of animal welfare.
PetValu	Animal welfare. Due diligence is taken by reputable recognized breeders to ensure their animals are adopted into a good home.
Advocate – Kasey Dunn	Animal welfare. Consumer protection.
Advocate – Michelle DaRe	Animal welfare. Supports interests of neighbouring municipalities.
Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council of Canada (PIJAC Canada)	Advocates for responsible pet sales on behalf of the Canadian pet industry.

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 28, 2014

Item 1, CW(WS) Report No. 4 – Page 10

In addition to the above consultation, staff held a public meeting on November 20, 2013 at City Hall that highlighted the proposed amendments.

The consultative process undertaken by staff further concluded that additional benefits may also be realized by the City of Vaughan, similar to that of other municipalities such as:

- Reduction in increased public service demands caused by proliferation of strays;
- Reduction in stray and abandoned animals;
- Reduction in the number of impulse pet purchases, further adding to increased unwanted animals ending up in shelters, rescues and humane societies; and
- Most importantly, reduction in the risk of the transmission of animal diseases such as rabies.

The risk of rabies was realized in January 2008, when a puppy sold at Doctor Flea's flea market within the City of Toronto, tested positive for rabies. Although there have been no other known incidents of this nature since that time, the incident may have been avoided with the appropriate restrictions in place.

Not unlike other regulatory schemes intended to address systemic issues and mitigate potential risks in the interest of the public, there is no absolute method to quantify other expected benefits. However, it is reasonable to conclude as other cities have, that more effective regulatory controls provide a governance system that offers greater confidence in our communities, supports greater consumer protection and public health, can contribute to further deterring "hoarding" and unlawful "puppy mill" operations from operating within Ontario (in accordance with and supportive of OSPCA mandates) and from a broader, more global perspective, these proposed measures contribute to the greater good and welfare of the community and the welfare of the animals within.

There is an increasing trend and interest amongst the animal care industry associations, such as the Association of Animal Shelter Administrators of Ontario and the Canadian Federation of Humane Society's to consider regulatory controls, including restrictions on the sale of commercially bred dogs and cats, at the municipal level.

Through assessment of the above data, staff recommend that, and believe in the interest of consumer protection, well-being and public safety, there is sufficient reason and evidence to support the introduction of the appropriate amendments to the City of Vaughan Animal Control By-law by limiting and moving to limit the sale of dogs or cats sold through pet stores and retail establishments to animals that are sourced from a shelter, rescue organization and/or humane society.

It is important to note that currently there are no known pet retailers engaged in the sale of dogs and cats not sourced from a shelter, animal rescue or humane society within the City of Vaughan. Supporting the above recommended related amendment(s) has no adverse effect on any established businesses within the City.

As other municipalities continue to introduce such regulatory controls, not proceeding progressively to do so within the City of Vaughan provides a forum by which retail operations may eventually migrate to the City, further exasperating the issue of increased risks to the public and increased proliferation of abandoned animals. Supporting the introduction of such regulatory controls will deter this activity, provide a level playing field for the pet industry and further support the global interests of our City and that of neighbouring municipalities.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

The proposed recommendations contained within this Report are directly aligned with the City's strategy of citizens first through service excellence, by focusing on public education

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 28, 2014

Item 1, CW(WS) Report No. 4 – Page 11

for improved public awareness through providing a more comprehensive and effective Animal Control By-law, along with the introduction of necessary regulations that better address consumer protection, public interests, health and safety, and animal care within the City of Vaughan.

Regional Implications

Adoption of proposed amendments within this Report provides an enhanced regulatory framework that directly supports regional and provincial public health mandates and legislation in respect of zoonotic diseases such as rabies.

Conclusion

The findings and recommendations contained within this Report will create a more comprehensive regulatory framework for delivery of animal services that is better aligned with community needs, public health, safety and well-being.

Attachments

1. Extract of Council Meeting Minutes of March 2011 (Report No. 11, Item 9)
2. Municipal Comparative Chart

Report prepared by:

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By-Law & Compliance Department
Ext. 8735

Susan Kelly
Animal Services Supervisor
By-Law & Compliance Department
Ext. 8952

Chris G. Bendick
Legal Counsel
Ext. 8298

(A copy of the attachments referred to in the foregoing have been forwarded to each Member of Council and a copy thereof is also on file in the office of the City Clerk.)

From: Andre Ngo <andre.ngo@reptilia.org>
Sent: Sunday, January 26, 2014 4:06 PM
To: andre.ngo@reptilia.org
Cc: Bevilacqua, Maurizio; Rosati, Gino; Di Biase, Michael; Schulte, Deb; lafre Rosanna; Racco, Sandra; Shefman, Alan; Clerks@vaughan.ca
Subject: Reptilia's comments regarding proposed changes to bylaw 53-2002
Attachments: Reptilia's Comments on Vaughan Bylaw 53 2002 Proposed Amendment.

C	7
Item #	1
Report No.	4 (WS)
Council - January 28/14	

Mayor Bevilacqua, Members of Council, and Vaughan City Clerk,

It has come to our attention at Reptilia that changes have been proposed to Vaughan City's bylaw 53-2002 and would like to express our concern regarding one proposed amendment.

Our concerns and the reasons for them are laid out in the attached letter.

Sincerely,

Andre Ngo, Ph.D.

Director of Research and Curriculum
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January 23, 2014

To the Mayor, Members of Council and Vaughan City Clerk:

As a longtime business and tourist attraction here in Vaughan (since 1996), Reptilia would like to express its concern regarding one proposed amendment to Vaughan bylaw 53-2002.

Proposed Prohibition of Constrictors (Snakes)

We preface this letter with the clarification that we are only speaking to the issues as they pertain to reptiles. With that in mind, the current Animal Care and Control bylaw (53-2002) of the City of Vaughan is well written and effective with respect to reptiles.

The additional wording included in the proposed amendment under the "Prohibited Animals" section proposing a "prohibition on the keeping of constrictors (snakes)" is unnecessary.

Apparent Motivation for the Amendment

As we understand the motivation, the reason for the inclusion of this wording is likely in reaction to the tragedy that occurred in New Brunswick in 2013 and the desire to protect the residents of Vaughan from a similar situation.

Vaughan Acted on This Safeguard Many Years Ago

Fortunately, the City of Vaughan acted in 2002 to prevent such animals from being kept by the public, so the proposed change this year is unnecessary as the New Brunswick issue was caused by a snake which has been prohibited for 12 years by your existing bylaw 53 – 2002.

Please refer to bylaw 53 – 2002 - Schedule B which, as written prohibits: All snakes which reach an adult length larger than 3 meters.

The Word 'Constrictor' is Not a Synonym of the Word 'Dangerous'

Unfortunately, the term 'constrictor' has become confused with dangerous, when, in fact, it simply refers to a method of feeding and can be applied to the vast majority of non-venomous snake species, including most of our harmless native species and such popular and safe pet species as the corn snake or even, depending on what it is eating at the time, the tiny garter snake.

A train qualifies as a vehicle and so does a Smart Car. But as everyone knows, there is a world of difference between the two that the word 'vehicle' simply does not describe or encompass, and so it is with the word 'constrictor'.

All constrictors are not dangerous. Full grown constrictors range in weight from less than a pound to over 500 lbs. Vaughan's existing bylaw already covers the 'dangerous' species of constrictor snakes.

Issues Arising From Prohibition

Prohibition of all constricting snakes will create some issues that require deliberation, including:

Owning a Snake (Even a Small Corn Snake Will Become Illegal)

First, it eliminates the legal ownership of snakes in Vaughan for both the public and in some cases, though exempted as an institution in the bylaw, the education community. This bylaw turns thousands of kids and parent who own snakes into nefarious criminals. The schools who have been teaching our curriculum enrichment programs using snakes for years and the teachers who have to care for those snakes at home during the school breaks would share the same fate.

Now the Reality

For the public, this amendment simply means that they will have to drive further to buy what they want and may even encourage the purchase of snakes now prohibited under the existing bylaw (which is viewed as being fair and balanced by most of our customers) since by having any snake – large or small – they would be in contravention of the law.

A serious risk the City runs with the proposed change is a shift from harmless species to more dangerous ones. Like the old saying goes: 'In for a penny, in for a pound'. Since a half pound corn snake is illegal anyway, why not splurge for that cool giant Burmese python that is not much more money? And if this happens, and it will, then we will have some snakes coming into the City that we **really don't want**.

As an example, some of the 'fringe' keepers could well opt for the more 'exciting' and potentially dangerous African Rock (the type of snake that was in New Brunswick – which can weigh up to 300 lbs), Anacondas (heaviest snake in the world – over 500 lbs in some cases), Reticulated Pythons (the longest snake in the world and a potentially aggressive predator as well) or, possibly, even venomous snakes.

It is our opinion that this amendment will simply drive underground the sane & legal keeping of a passive animal which has – to our knowledge, after being intimately involved for 18 years – never caused an issue in our City.

Education Restrictions

By prohibiting standard and safe pet species, the proposed amendment will in some cases limit educational opportunities for GTA and Vaughan students who participate in our corn snake habitarium program, as well as cause local businesses, like Reptilia, significant revenue loss with no apparent upside for the City.

Reason Is Needed Here

Harmless constricting snakes currently comprise the vast majority of pet reptile species, with the Ball Python and Corn Snake topping the list. As reptiles are the fastest growing segment of the pet industry, due to their hypoallergenic nature, ease of care, and generally docile dispositions, constricting snakes, and the materials and food required to keep and care for them, are a significant source of income for many businesses in the city.

Reptilia, for example, has spent the last 18 years building a solid clientele of retail and educational customers in the city of Vaughan, who purchase, own or are interested in pet reptiles. Reptilia and its customers, including both residents of Vaughan and those who bring their money to spend in Vaughan, would be ill served by the proposed changes.

Popular for Many Kids – Especially Those With Allergies

Across North America, Reptiles and Amphibians form the fastest growing segment of the pet industry for good reason.

As non-allergenic, low maintenance, harmless animals, most reptiles are excellent pets for active busy people. People with full-time careers are often unable to keep or properly care for more demanding traditional pets, like cats and dogs, which if left unattended for any length of time can prove far more destructive and dangerous than the vast majority of reptiles.

Many reptiles, like the docile and tractable Ball Python (a large adult weighs less than 4 lbs), are not only easily and safely handled, but are easily housed securely and humanely in even a small apartment. Reptiles have been shown to be excellent educational tools, valuable additions to school curricula and activities. Further, their hypo-allergenic nature makes them ideal given the dramatic increase in serious child allergies that we have seen in recent years.

We Educate Before We Sell

We fully believe that ownership, possession and care of reptiles, as with any animal, should only be undertaken by those who are informed and committed to the welfare of the animals in question as well as to the safety and welfare of those around them and a sweeping unfounded prohibition of all snakes does not help the situation. Rational legislation that protects the general public, the animals and the rights of the individual is what is needed.

Vaughan was Proactive with Regard to Reptiles Many Years Ago – and Quite Successful!

In summary, the proposed amendment as it pertains to reptiles (and snakes in particular) is redundant, unnecessary, and excessively restrictive, and will likely result in both increased risk to the public and needless financial duress on Vaughan businesses not to mention the almost impossible task of enforcing the bylaw on kids, parents, schools, teachers, and the retail stores handling snakes and all the support goods required.

Economic Hardship for Retailers

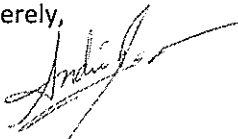
For every dollar of snake sales lost at Reptilia, we will lose at least \$85 dollars in sales for food, décor, heating, tanks, hoods, and health supplements over half the life of the average Corn Snake, for example. It is likely other retailers would share similar losses.

After 18 years in business with more than 30,000 regular customers (not to speak of the thousands of tourists that come to the Facility) and not one single insurance claim ever (as well as winning the 2010 City of Vaughan Good Corporate Citizen Award), we cannot recommend this amendment for the reasons contained above and suggest to the Mayor and Council that Vaughan has been well protected for many years by its existing bylaw wording.

Summary

Bylaw 53-2002 as currently implemented in Vaughan, with regard to reptiles, is well thought out and well written and has – for more than a decade – done a fine job of both protecting the public and the rights of residents.

Sincerely,



Dr. Andre Ngo, Ph. D.
Director of Research and Curriculum
Reptilia Inc.
2501 Rutherford Road
Vaughan, Ontario
L4K 2N6



memorandum

C	<u>9</u>
Item #	<u>1</u>
Report No.	<u>4 (WS)</u>
<u>Council - January 28/14</u>	

DATE: January 27, 2014

TO: Honourable Mayor and Members of Council

FROM: MaryLee Farrugia, Commissioner of Legal & Administrative Services/City Solicitor
Gus Michaels, Director of By-law & Compliance

RE: COMMUNICATION
Council Meeting January 28, 2014

Item/Report #4 – Committee of the Whole (Working Session) – January 21, 2014 – Vaughan Animal Services By-law Review and Communication Strategy

Communication from Reptilia Inc. Reptile Zoo & Education Facility

A recent communication from Dr. Andre Ngo, PH.D, Director of Research and Curriculum, Reptilia Inc. received on January 27, 2014 identified concerns with the proposed inclusion of constrictors (snakes) as a prohibited species, instead supporting the existing size restrictions of not larger than an adult length of 3 metres as contained within Vaughan's current Animal Control By-law.

In response, staff believe that the consideration of including constrictor snakes in the proposed improved Prohibited Species Schedule 'B' of the Vaughan Animal Control By-law # 53-2002 be deferred, maintaining the existing size restriction of not larger than 3 metres pending further review and consultation with Reptilia Inc., and other pet industry stakeholders as required.

On November 20, 2013, in order to solicit input from the public and industry stakeholders, staff from the By-law & Compliance Department held a public consultation presenting the highlights of proposed amendments, including staff's intent to include constrictors (snakes) within the prohibited species schedule of the Animal Control By-law. Although Public Notice was provided through media publications and the City's Website, Reptilia Inc. and other industry stakeholders were not represented at the Public Consultation Meeting. There was no opposition provided to the proposed amendment, until receipt of the communication from Reptilia Inc. on January 27, 2014.

At its meeting of January 21, 2014, the Committee of the Whole (Working Session) recommended that the recommendations contained within the Vaughan Animal Services By-law Review and Communication Strategy Report from the Commissioner of Legal & Administrative Services/City Solicitor and the Director of By-law & Compliance, dated January 21, 2014, be approved.

Included within this recommendation, as identified in Recommendation #1 Subsection (e) of the Report, was the approval of an improved schedule of prohibited species. One of the proposed improvements intended to be included was the prohibition of constrictors (snakes).

The existing Animal Control By-law 53-2002, Schedule B – Prohibited Animals, prohibits the keeping of constrictors which reach an adult length of larger than 3 metres. Part 11- Prohibited Species, Section 3, exempts institutions such as Reptilia, premises of the OSPCA, facilities

registered pursuant to the Animals for Research Act, among others from the Prohibited Species Schedule 'B' of the By-law. Although these facilities would continue to be exempt from keeping of prohibited species identified within the proposed schedule, Reptilia Inc., like other pet industry retailers, are engaged in the sale of various constrictor species. Adopting a prohibition of all constrictors would somewhat restrict their available market, since Vaughan residents would be prohibited from keeping of such reptiles.

Although the existing prohibitions regarding constrictors contained with By-law #53-2002 prohibits the keeping of snakes which reach an adult length of larger than 3 metres, staff maintain, in the interest of public safety, that the current length restriction does not adequately protect against harm to the public, namely children. Staff believe that further research and consultation with industry stakeholders is warranted to ensure that any future proposed restrictions (including a reduction in permitted size) more adequately reflects the interests of public safety.

Staff believes that an improved prohibited species list can be approved without including the previously proposed amendments for constrictors (snakes) at this time, pending further consideration to identify a solution that more equitably addresses public safety, and community and stakeholder interests through the appropriate consultative process, followed by a report to a future Committee of the Whole for further consideration.



Gus Michaels, Director
By-law & Compliance Department



MaryLee Farrugia, Commissioner/City Solicitor
Legal & Administrative Services

Magnifico, Rose

Subject: Committee of the Whole Working Session for January 21, 2014
Attachments: Ask the right questions PIJAC Canada.pdf

From: Louis McCann [<mailto:executiveoffice@Pijaccanada.com>]
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 12:09 PM
To: adelinabellisario@vaughan.ca; Clerks@vaughan.ca
Subject: Committee of the Whole Working Session for January 21, 2014

C 1 COMMUNICATION
GW (WORKING SESSION) January 21/14
ITEM - 1

January 20, 2014

Committee of the Whole
City of Vaughn
c/o Adelina Bellisario

RE: Item D - Restrictions on the sale of dogs and cats in pet stores and retail establishments unless sourced from a shelter, humane society or rescue organization.

Dear Committee of the Whole Council Members

On behalf of the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council of Canada, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above-mentioned exercise. Please note that although it is indicated in the staff report that our association was consulted on this issue we were not. I would respectfully ask that you consider the following points during your meeting.

PIJAC Canada is a not for profit trade association that represents the different sectors of the Canadian pet industry. Over the last 25 years, our expertise has been recognized in many areas of interest to pet owners and their companion animals. This expertise is regularly sought by municipalities across this country, as well as by agencies from the provincial and federal governments.

For the record, PIJAC Canada has always been supportive of regulations that address areas of concerns, provided this is done in a fair and efficient manner. Responsible pet ownership, proper animal care and husbandry are just a few of the areas our organization promotes, by providing information and training to a variety of stakeholders.

PIJAC Canada respectfully submits that restricting the sale of cats and dogs in pet retail establishments will not be effective in alleviating concerns over the issue of unwanted animals that end up in shelters. In addition we will provide further comments on vaccination, rabies concerns and transmissible diseases.

With regard to unwanted animals in shelters, we have included a few attachments which offer statistical data and insights into these issues. Reference to these documents will be made within the text below. The attachments will appear as one pdf in this email.

By the nature of their operations, reputable area pet stores are established businesses in the community that have fixed addresses and remain accountable to the customers they serve. These legitimate businesses are self-sustaining and bring a steady tax revenue stream to the City. Because of their high visibility amongst residents and the general public, they see the importance of offering quality animals and quality information to their customers. Proper veterinary care and proper information on the care and husbandry of the animals they offer for sale, is tantamount to the success of their business.

There seems to be an underlying assumption that if stores are prohibited from selling puppies and kittens, customers will automatically go to the shelter and adopt cat or dog. (See attachment - Origin of Pets) People who purchase from pet stores, are looking for puppies and kittens. Most cats and dogs in shelters are adults. Stopping local sales will not prevent citizens of Vaughn from driving to another municipality if they want to purchase a puppy or kitten from a retail store or from looking to other sources to get what they want. This moves business elsewhere and does nothing to educate consumers on how to make good choices.

Retail stores are frequently a drop off centre for unwanted kittens. Many left at the doors in a box. The stores are able to find homes for those animals through their business connection with the community, delivering advice on proper care and appropriate products. Removing this from the community means those kittens will now be directed to the shelters effectively increasing their numbers.

Prohibiting dog and cat sales would also demonstrate a preference towards one type of business over another, even though both of them offer the same service (offering dogs and cats to Vaughn residents). In our opinion, such a decision, based on hearsay and misguided opinions, would create unfair business practices and eliminate legitimate sources where residents of Vaughn can obtain a healthy pet cat or dog.

As for health issues. Reputable pet stores work together with animal care professionals and carry out recommended animal care and husbandry protocols. These protocols address issues like minimum age at which an animal can be offered for sale, proper vaccination schedule and procedures to help minimize the risk of disease transmission. Because of their ongoing presence in the community and fixed address, these steps are easily verifiable by city officials. The same can't be said for many other sources like internet and newspaper ads. Reputable pet stores have a veterinarian on retainer and will provide medical records to the new family along with a health guarantee.

Who is responsible?

Healthy animals are the responsibility of all organizations involved in the sale/adoption of cats and dogs; stores, shelters, municipalities, breeders, vets, even the media. To effectively reduce the numbers of unwanted and abandoned pets, consumers need to be educated about;

- the commitment involved in having a pet,
- how to identify a good source (See attachment - New Addition to the Family checklist attached)
- how to select a healthy well matched companion

Proposed Direction

The citizens of Vaughn have a right to explore as many sources as they like. Teaching them what to look for will help them to make educated decisions. To achieve this we recommend an approach that includes the establishment of a uniform message to be promoted in partnership with the city, all Vaughn establishments that are involved in the sale/adoption of pets.

To move forward and effectively address the issue of unwanted and abandoned pets it is key to do two things:

1. Look at the data available and determine exactly why animals are being abandoned whether it is for reasons such as; health issues, change in family situation or lack of interest, etc. (see attachment - "Why pets end up in shelters")
2. Pool our resources, municipality, business, shelter, media, vets, breeders etc. to come up with solutions which address the specific issues and educate the public.

The following two examples outline how different sectors have work together.

1. The New Addition to the Family Checklist developed by the National Companion Animal Coalition (Canadian Federation of Humane Societies, Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, Canadian Kennel Club, and PIJAC Canada) addresses puppy mills, impulse buying and provides a checklist of questions consumers can and should ask when exploring any source they are considering purchasing a dog from. (New Addition to the Family checklist attached)
2. The 9th Annual National Summit on Urban Animal Strategies (tsuas.com), which focuses on, on issues affecting pets in Canada such as sheltering, sourcing, spay/neuter, health issues . Attended by all four national pet associations and animal industry professional from sectors across the country (sheltering, municipal, rescue, business, veterinary) attendees gather to collaborate on solutions to the issues surrounding pets. Much of what is worked on directly addresses the issue of abandoned and unwanted pets.

In reference to the Facebook petition listed in the committee notes, this petition was also brought up in the bylaw discussion in Richmond Hill and was discovered to have signatures from a minimum of 28 different countries and therefore has no bearing on how the residents of Vaughn feel about this issue.

City staff lists municipalities that have gone ahead with such a restriction on dog and cat sales in pet retail establishments. It is important to point out that the four municipalities listed as having such a restriction represent all of the cities in the country that have done so. There are several more municipalities that have chosen not to proceed with such a restriction than the four listed in the report. In Ontario alone, the cities of Ottawa, London, Oshawa, Orillia and Oakville have all decided not to go with such a restriction.

Restricting sales does not address the issue of unwanted pets, working together to educate consumers does. Regardless of where your citizens decide to source their animals from, empowering the residents of Vaughn to make good decisions will help cut down on unwanted and abandoned pets, weed out bad sources and save the city money in the long run with a decreased number of animals entering the shelter.

Finally our association recommends the City of Vaughn adopt the same approach used by the cities of Toronto and Oshawa when it comes to addressing the issue of prohibited animals. We feel such an approach to be more precise and more efficient at addressing the issue of dangerous pets.

We support an approach with a wider reaching, alternative solution that puts every business on the same level. For example, uniform licensing for any source who offers pets into the community and mandatory inspection by law enforcement guided by the Animal Protection Act of Ontario. In addition, using the collective strengths of each source to promote proper animal care and responsible pet ownership would be an effective way to engage the community, helping them to make informed choices. Our association is committed to working with the city of Vaughn to achieve this common objective. We look forward to your comments.

Sincerely,



Louis McCann
President and CEO
PIJAC Canada
1010 Polytek St., Unit 14
Ottawa, ON K1J 9H9



Louis McCann | Executive Director - Directeur général
PIJAC Canada | 1-800-667-7452 ext. 112 | www.pijaccanada.com
Animal welfare is everyone's business! TM
Le bien-être animal, c'est l'affaire de tous! ^{MD}



Purchase or Adopt?

Ask the right questions before you shop.



The voice of the Canadian pet industry
La voix de l'industrie des animaux de
compagnie au Canada

Because Animal Welfare is Everybody's Business

WHO IS PIJAC CANADA

The Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council of Canada (PIJAC Canada) is a not for profit, national organization dedicated to promoting the highest level of pet care attainable and equitable representation for all sectors of the Canadian pet industry. The association offers education and guidance to pet industry businesses, but does not have any law enforcement powers. If we become aware of a member who is not in accordance with our association's recommended code of practice we choose to first take a positive and pro-active approach by engaging the member, and offering guidance and assistance in helping them to correct the situation. It is through collaboration and supportive guidance that changes can be made.

WHAT IS OUR ROLE

Our industry plays an important role in the wellbeing of Canada's pets. As the association representing the industry we believe the solution to substandard operations lies in the implementation of a Province-wide regulation that would result in the inspection and the licensing of all pet establishments (stores, shelters, breeders, kennels). This treats all pet establishments fairly by holding all of them to the same standards. As a result this will be a big step in helping to ensure Canada's pets are properly cared for. The provinces of Quebec, Manitoba and New Brunswick have implemented similar legislation in the last 3 years. This all encompassing approach treats all sources equally, fosters collaboration between them and helps to weed out disreputable ones who are unable to meet the agreed upon standards.

WHAT YOU SHOULD EXPECT FROM A RELIABLE SOURCE

Reliable sources are accountable. They operate at a fixed address, provide medical records, offer expert advice, provide comprehensive written warranties and an after sale support.

- **Reliable sources are answerable to the public and the city for all the animals they sell.** They comply with all the requirements stipulated under existing provincial and federal animal protection legislation.

- **Reliable sources promote the benefits of responsible pet ownership.** Caring for a pet is a wonderful experience. In an age that is more and more digital and impersonal, promoting the human animal bond becomes even more important. Reliable sources play an important role in promoting responsible pet ownership and the human animal bond.

- **A reliable source's success depends on positive relationships with their customers.**

For a reliable source to stay in business today, they must develop strong client trust. They accomplish this by doing everything in their power to maximize their client's pet ownership experience. They achieve this by offering quality pets, pertinent advice on their care and husbandry and by providing good after-sale support. Offering poor quality animals is bad for business.

- **Reliable sources are part of the solution.** Communities and their municipal councils need strong partnerships to help them address pet related issues. Reliable pet sources working together can help support their municipalities in their efforts to address the wellbeing of pets in their communities by taking a leadership role in educating their clients and others in their area.

Pet Industry Joint
Advisory Council
Conseil consultatif
mixte de l'industrie des
animaux de compagnie

1810 Polytek Street, Unit 14
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Tel: 613.730.8111

Toll Free: 800.667.7452

Fax: 613.730.9111

Are you ready to welcome a new dog into your home?

Before buying one, make sure you know the answers to these questions:

- ☐ How do I find out which type of dog suits my lifestyle?
- ☐ How can I tell if the dog comes from a reputable source?
- ☐ What terms should the guarantee include?
- ☐ How can I identify if the dog is in good health?

Visit www.pijaccanada.com for more information!



**To make the right match...
...ask the right questions!**

The "New Addition to the Family" checklist will help you make the right choice!

New Addition To The Family?



Congratulations!

You are thinking of inviting a dog into your home as part of your family. A dog can bring much happiness and companionship for many years, and the choice of a dog is an important one. We urge you to consider the following before making this decision:

What Type Of Dog Suits Your Lifestyle?

- Different breeds, sizes, and temperaments of dogs will influence the type of care and amount of exercise required. Be honest about your ability to provide an appropriate environment for the type of dog that you are considering.
- Where do you wish to obtain your dog, and is it a reputable source?
- Before deciding on a dog, have you obtained information regarding health, genetic, and behavioural problems that may impact its well-being?

Do not be tempted to purchase a dog impulsively.

Take your time, and do your homework.

The NCAC developed this document to address the issue of puppy mills. You may also want to consult the member organizations* for additional information:

Avoid Purchasing a Dog from a Puppy Mill

A puppy mill is defined by the NCAC as a high-volume, sub-standard dog breeding operation, which sells purebred or mixed breed dogs, to unsuspecting buyers. Some of the characteristics common to puppy mills are:

- a) Sub-standard health and/or environmental issues;
- b) Sub-standard animal care, treatment, and/or socialization;
- c) Sub-standard breeding practices which lead to genetic defects or hereditary disorders;
- d) Erroneous or falsified certificates of registration, pedigrees, and/or genetic background.

Note: These conditions may also exist in small volume or single-breed establishments.

About the NCAC and this document

This document reflects expertise from the *Canadian Federation of Humane Societies www.cfhs.ca, the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association www.canadianveterinarians.net, the Canadian Kennel Club www.ckc.ca and the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council of Canada (PIJAC Canada) www.pijaccanada.com. Together they constitute the National Companion Animal Coalition (NCAC), which was created in 1996 to promote socially responsible pet ownership and enhance the health and well being of companion animals.

Additional input was provided by the following agencies on this particular project: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and Dogs in Canada magazine.

When you are ready to welcome your dog into your home, use this check list to assist you in your decision.

You should be able to check 'yes' to all boxes!

Assessment of the Facility/Environment:

A clean and sanitary environment fosters healthy dogs.

- ☐ Have you been allowed access to the facilities where the dogs are housed?
- ☐ Is the facility clean?
- ☐ Are food and water available in the dogs' environment?
- ☐ Are references supplied upon request?
- ☐ Have you been asked pertinent questions to ensure the compatibility of you (the buyer) and the dog?
- ☐ In the case of a breeding establishment, is the mother (dam) on the premises and available for you to see?

Health Issues and Physical Appearance of the Dog:

Healthy well-socialized puppies have an active, open and friendly disposition. Avoid puppies that are overly shy and fearful.

- ☐ Do the dogs have good dispositions?
- ☐ Do the dogs appear to be in good health? Below are some of the symptoms that may be of concern:
 - Thin body condition
 - Pot-belly
 - Lethargy
 - Diarrhea or stained hair around the anus
 - Cough
 - Discharge from the eyes or nose
- ☐ Are copies of health, vaccination certificates and documentation of the dog's last visit to the veterinarian available for you to see?
- ☐ In addition to the above, when dealing with a breeder, is documentation available confirming formal health clearances for both parents? (Such information is required to reduce the likelihood of transmissible diseases and genetic disorders)

Issues at the Time of Sale:

Buyer beware! Proper documentation protects you and your dog.

Will you be provided with a bill of sale, listing:

- ☐ Date of purchase?
- ☐ Names of the buyer and seller?
- ☐ Description of the dog?
- ☐ Purchase price?

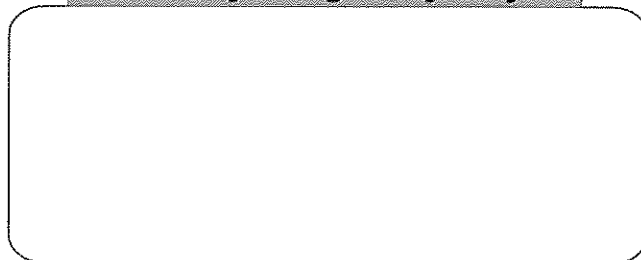
In the case of a purebred dog, will you receive:

- ☐ A bill of sale stating that the dog is a pure bred and naming the breed?
- ☐ Confirmation the dog has been uniquely identified by microchip or tattoo?
- ☐ Confirmation of a valid certificate of registration* of the parents, litter (when applicable) and dog that you are acquiring?
- ☐ The total purchase price of the dog?

Will you be provided with a written guarantee that lists:

- ☐ Specific details of pet return or compensation arrangements in the event of a health problem/illness and any time frames that apply?
- ☐ What is expected of the buyer (i.e. exam by a veterinarian within a certain time frames)?

Proudly brought to you by:



Produced by:



*In Canada, a valid registration certificate may be issued by a breed association recognized under the Animal Pedigree Act, including the Canadian Kennel Club, Canadian Border Collie Association, Canine Federation of Canada, Working Canine Association of Canada and the Canadian Livestock Records Corporation.



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Pet Care

Healthy Pet > Pet Care > Article

Why Do Pets End Up in Shelters?

SHARE



Every day in communities across the US a bond is broken. It's the bond between people and their pets, resulting in millions of pets being surrendered to shelters each year. And little has been known about the reasons why until now.

In a study conducted by the National Council on Pet Population Study and Policy (NCPSP) and published in the *Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science (JAAWS)*, researchers went into 12 selected animal shelters in the United States for one year to find out why.

The results of the study show that the top seven reasons for relinquishment for both dogs and cats are the same. "These commonalities suggest that there may be similar ways to address relinquishment in dogs and cats," says Pam Burney, NCPSP president. "For people who work in a shelter all day, there isn't always time to look at these issues. We have impressions of what's happening, but now we have objective data that will help us develop specific programs to address the issues that have been identified."

Top 10 Reasons for Relinquishment

Dogs

- Moving
- Landlord not allowing pet
- Too many animals in household
- Cost of pet maintenance
- Owner having personal problems
- Inadequate facilities
- No homes available for litter mates
- Having no time for pet
- Pet illness(es)
- Biting

Cats

- Moving
- Landlord not allowing pet
- Too many animals in household
- Cost of pet maintenance
- Owner having personal problems
- Inadequate facilities
- No homes available for litter mates
- Allergies in family
- House soiling
- Incompatibility with other pets

Specially trained researchers completed confidential individual interviews with pet owners who were relinquishing their dogs or cats to animal shelters. Pet owners were allowed to give up to five reasons for relinquishment. Interviewers did not, however, prioritize the responses. They simply recorded them in the order stated.

Characteristics of Pets Being Relinquished

In addition to the reasons for relinquishment, the study collected data on pets being relinquished.

According to the study:

- The majority of the surrendered dogs (47.7%) and cats (40.3%) were between 5 months and 3 years of age.
- The majority of dogs (37.1%) and cats (30.2) had been owned from 7 months to 1 year.
- Approximately half of the pets (42.8% of dogs; 50.8% of cats) surrendered were not neutered.
- Many of the pets relinquished (33% of dogs; 46.9% of cats) had not been to a veterinarian.
- Animals acquired from friends were relinquished in higher numbers (31.4% of dogs; 33.2% of cats) than from any other source.

- Close to equal numbers of male and female dogs and cats were surrendered.
- Most dogs (96%) had not received any obedience training.

Characteristics of Pet Owners Surrendering Pets

During the confidential interviews, researchers also gathered data on the people surrendering the pets. "Owners represented a broad range of age, ethnicity, education, and income level, indicating continued efforts will need to reach wide and far into communities across the country," say Dr. Mo Salman, the article's senior author.

The NCPPSP Regional Shelter Survey was designed, implemented, and analyzed by six members of the NCPPSP Scientific Advisory Committee. Regional investigators were encouraged to select shelters that were likely to be representative of those in their locations. The selection was also based on a shelter's ability to dedicate time and resources to the project.

The publication of this article represents the first such scientific and public release of relinquishment data from the NCPPSP's ongoing research into pet population issues. "The council has undertaken several important studies to better understand the issue of unwanted companion animals. This problem cannot be solved unless we truly understand it," says Burney. "Without this new data, individuals and organizations can have a clear idea of how to approach these issues most effectively."

As with all research, there are limitations. According to the authors, "the study was designed to describe the animals submitted to shelters. Thus, this set of data has no comparison data from the general pet-owning population. Many factors undoubtedly influence pet relinquishment, and some critical factors may have been omitted. This study represents a beginning of systematic data collection to examine this complex problem. The study is not designed to deal with animals other than those entering shelters, and influences cannot be drawn beyond this population."

The National Council on Pet Population Study and Policy (NCPSP) is a coalition of 11 of America's foremost animal organizations concerned with the issue of unwanted pets in the United States. It was established to gather and analyze reliable data that further characterize the number, origin and disposition of companion animals (dogs and cats) in the United States; to promote responsible stewardship of these companion animals; and to then recommend programs to reduce the number of surplus/unwanted pets in the United States.

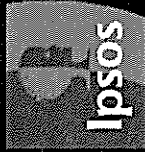
The NCPPSP is composed of the following organizations: American Animal Hospital Association; American Humane Association; American Kennel Club; American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; American Veterinary Medical Association; Association of Teachers of Veterinary Public Health and Preventive Medicine; Cat Fanciers' Association; The Humane Society of the United States; Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; National Animal Control Association; Society of Animal Welfare Administrators.

Note: All content provided on HealthyPet.com, is meant for educational purposes only on health care and medical issues that may affect pets and should never be used to replace professional veterinary care from a licensed veterinarian. This site and its services do not constitute the practice of any veterinary medical health care advice, diagnosis or treatment.



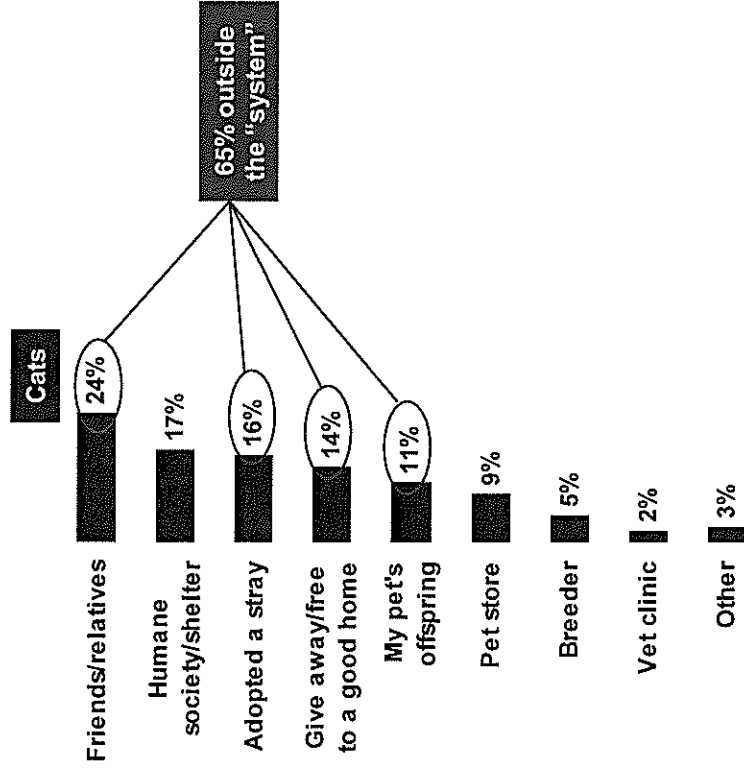
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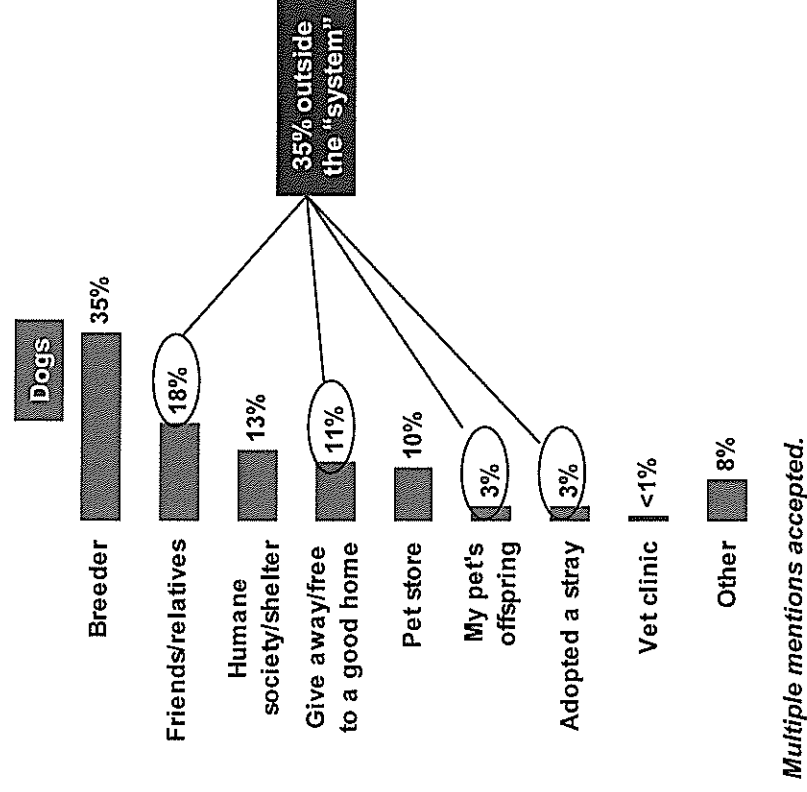


Origin of Pet

- ◆ Cats originate from a variety of places but most often come from friends/relatives, humane societies, adopted strays or giveaways.
- ◆ Dogs come from these same places but most often come from a breeder.



Q7a. For each pet listed below, please indicate where it came from.
Q7a/ii. You indicated that your [cat(s)/dog(s)] came from a source not mentioned, please specify.





The voice of the Canadian pet industry
La voix de l'industrie des animaux de
compagnie au Canada

PIJAC Canada's statement on the responsible sale of pets

The Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council of Canada recognizes the important role pets play in our lives. Acquiring a pet must be done responsibly. The decision to acquire a pet should be an informed one.

The sale of pets must also be done responsibly. PIJAC Canada views the following elements as essential to contributing to and ensuring the responsible sale of a pet:

- Seller ensures, to the best of their knowledge, that the pet he offered for sale is healthy;
- Seller provides prospective pet owners with the information pertinent to the pet's proper care and husbandry;
- Seller makes all reasonable efforts to ensure the right pet is matched to the right owner;
- Seller provides appropriate pre and post sale support to the new pet owner;
- Seller is able to supply the proper food and advise the purchaser on the products and accessories essential to the pet's welfare.
- Seller maintains proper records as required by law

Pet Industry Joint
Advisory Council
Conseil consultatif
mixte de l'industrie des
animaux de compagnie

2495 Lancaster Road, Suite 202
Ottawa, Ontario K1B 4L5
www.pijaccanada.com

Tel: 613.730.8111
Toll Free: 800.667.7452
Fax: 613.730.9111



The voice of the Canadian pet industry
La voix de l'industrie des animaux de
compagnie au Canada

Arguments Against Banning the Sale of Pets in Pet Stores

PIJAC Canada is strongly opposed to banning the sale of pets as it is completely unwarranted and clearly demonstrates a bias against one specific source from which residents can obtain a pet.

- **Pet stores are accountable.** They operate at a fixed address, provide medical records, offer expert advice and provide after sale support.
 - **Pet stores are answerable to the public and the city for all the animals they sell.** They comply with all the requirements stipulated under existing provincial and federal animal protection legislation.
 - **Pet stores account for a small number of pets sold.** A 2008 Urban Animal Study delivered by Ipsos Reid indicated that 10 % of dogs and 9% cats owned by Canadians came from pet stores. Why create legislation that does not cover the 91% cats and 90% dogs entering communities from outside retail sources.
 - **Pet stores are viewed as a trusted source of pet care information.** A 2009 study on Responsible Cat and Dog owner segmentation in Canada, published by market research firm Kynetec, found that for both cats and dogs, pet stores ranked third behind veterinary clinics as a source of pet care information. Shelters and Humane Societies ranked seventh.
- Pet stores have access to training programs through their pet industry trade association: PIJAC Canada. This organization is recognized as a trusted source of information and expertise when it comes to pet care and husbandry. PIJAC Canada has published numerous information handouts geared towards pet store operators and their clientele, on a variety of issues. Education and information helps create responsible owners and responsible citizens. Pet stores play an important role in the dissemination of information.
- **Pet stores promote the benefits of responsible pet ownership.** Caring for a pet is a wonderful experience. In an age that is more and more digital and impersonal, promoting the human animal bond becomes even more important. Pet stores play an important role in promoting responsible pet ownership and the human animal bond.
 - **A pet store's success depends on positive relationships with their customers.** For pet stores to stay in business today, they must develop strong customer loyalty. They accomplish this by doing everything in their power to maximize their customer's pet ownership experience. They achieve this by offering quality pets, pertinent advice on their care and husbandry and by providing good after-sale support. Offering poor quality animals is bad for business.

• **This issue is really about competition.** Proponents of this ban expect all pet owners to obtain their pets from Humane Societies and rescue groups. There is no factual evidence or statistical data to suggest that animals from pet stores are more susceptible to disease than those from other traditional sources (local Humane Society, rescue groups, classifieds, Internet). However, a December 2008 study published in the United States* found that overall 51.9 % of cats and dogs from shelters had health problems 1 week after adoption. * JAVMA, Dec. 2008 Vol. 233 No. 11

• **Pet stores are part of the solution, not part of the problem.** Municipalities need strong partnerships to help them address pet related issues with their constituents. Pet stores can help support the municipality in their efforts to target and deliver their message and also develop legislation that is fair and efficient for everyone.

Urban Nature Store
200 Marycroft Ave. # 22
Woodbridge, ON. L4L 5X6
289-474-5282

C 2
COMMUNICATION
CW (WORKING SESSION)
January 21/14
ITEM - 1

January 20, 2014

Dear: Mayor, and City Council, City Of Vaughan

RE: Committee of the Whole – January 21, 2014 Working Session
Vaughan Animal Services By-Law Review and Communications Strategy
Ban on Feeding Wild Birds?

I am writing to you as the owner of Urban Nature Store in Woodbridge in regards to the report prepared by Vaughan Animal Services - Animal Control By-Law. A number of our customers have raised concerns about the recommended amendments to the Animal Control By-Law, which could be interpreted to be a complete ban on the feeding of wild birds.

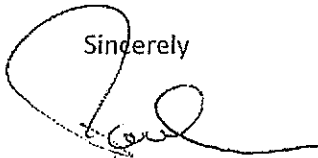
Overall we are strongly supportive of the City's efforts to enhance the treatment and care of dogs and cats in the City of Vaughan. Our concern focuses solely on the provisions which would "prohibit the feeding of wildlife". We believe that any by-law wording needs to be clarified to confirm that this by-law would not ban residents of Vaughan from feeding wild birds. This is an activity undertaken responsibly by many homeowners and it is an activity which is of vital importance to the wild bird population.

Due to construction and development, many of the natural habitats and food sources of wild birds have been destroyed. Human-assisted feeding of wild birds is vital to maintaining our natural bird population. Without our help, the wild bird population would decline significantly.

We certainly do not believe that it is the wish of City Council to ban residents from feeding wild birds; however, we feel that the by-law wording needs more clarity to confirm that the by-law focuses only on animals and not birds. If there are issues of "irresponsible" bird feeding that are causing localized nuisances, then we would be pleased to work with City Council to assist with approaches to deal with isolated situations.

I thank you for your assistance in clarifying this issue.

Sincerely



Paul Oliver
Dir 416-987-5824
Urban Nature Store

From: Abrams, Jeffrey
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 5:26 PM
To: Bellisario, Adelina
Subject: FW: Jan 21 - Committee of The Whole -Animal Services Report - ban on feeding wild birds?
Attachments: Vaughan Council - Jan 20 2014.pdf; Vaughan Council - Jan 20 2014.pdf

fyi

Jeffrey A. Abrams
City Clerk
City of Vaughan
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive
Vaughan, ON L6A 1T1
Tel (905) 832-8585 Ext 8281
Fax: (905) 832-8535
jeffrey.abrams@vaughan.ca



From: Ciafardoni, Joy
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 4:01 PM
To: Abrams, Jeffrey
Subject: FW: Jan 21 - Committee of The Whole -Animal Services Report - ban on feeding wild birds?

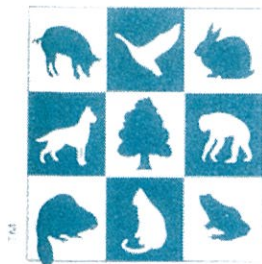
From: Paul Oliver [<mailto:paul@urbannaturestore.ca>]
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 3:53 PM
To: Bevilacqua, Maurizio; Ciafardoni, Joy
Subject: Jan 21 - Committee of The Whole -Animal Services Report - ban on feeding wild birds?

Dear Mayor, please find attached a letter in regards to the January 21 Committee of the Whole - Animal Services Report. While supportive of the report and the approach, we are very concerned that it could have the unintended impact of banning all bird feeders in the City of Vaughan.

We ask that you please consider our concerns prior to the morning meeting.

Thank you for your assistance.

Paul Oliver



**Animal Alliance
of Canada**



**Animal Alliance
Environment Voters
Party of Canada**

221 Broadview Ave., Suite 101,
Toronto, Ontario
M4M 2G3

Phone:
(416) 462-9541
Facsimile:
(416) 462-9647

E-mail:
liz@animalalliance.ca

Website:
www.environmentvoters.org

January 21, 2014

Chairperson and Members,
Committee of the Whole,
Vaughan City Hall,
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive
Vaughan, ON L6A 1T1

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

**Vaughan Animal Services By-law
Review & Communication Strategy**

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee about Vaughan Animal Services. I want to take the opportunity say thank you for exploring some very progressive measures regarding issues of unwanted and abandoned pets, exotics and wildlife.

I also want to say that staff did an extremely good job at reviewing the recommendations and their implications to residents, their animal companions, the City, businesses and others in the community.

The key to a successful by-law is measured in large part by the reduction of unwanted and abandoned animals who end up on municipal streets and in the municipal shelter. The recommendation to prohibit the sale of dogs and cats from pet stores and other retail establishments is an excellent first step. We urge you to consider others that may also have similar impacts.

Recommendations:

We recommend that the Committee:

1. Adopt all parts of Recommendation 1 in the report;
2. Consider amending 1.(d) to include places like flea markets, farmers markets and other like temporary operations.
3. Ask staff to consult with Zoocheck Canada regarding the prohibited species list;
4. Consider broadening the restrictions of tethering and confining dogs as a way to reduce bites and inappropriate behaviours given that considerable research demonstrates that biting and aggressive behaviour in dogs is exacerbated by tethering and confinement practices; and
5. Ensure clarity in the by-law definitions including for example, the meaning of "wildlife feeding or use of wildlife attractants" and the meaning of "bite" and "attack".

Sincerely,

Liz White, Animal Alliance/Environment Voters

C3
CW(ws)
January 21/14
Item 1

C4
CW(ws) - January 21/14
Item 1



Vaughan Animal Services

Citizens First Through Service Excellence

Animal Control By-law #53-2002 Proposed Amendments

January 21, 2014

By-law & Compliance Department





Background

- ✓ March 2010 City Council approved assumption of Animal Services, including providing contract services to King Township & Bradford West Gwillimbury
- ✓ March 2011 Council directed staff to develop a Communication Strategy for unleashed dogs
- ✓ Vaughan Animal Shelter opened to the public May 2011
- ✓ Review of Animal Control By-law and service delivery model began in 2013
- ✓ Future Report to Council expected in Spring 2014 regarding review of service delivery model
- ✓ To date an estimated 3,005 animals have passed through the shelter (approximately 1,200 annually)
- ✓ Service demands continue to increase by 10% annually



Purpose & Scope

- ✓ Further to Council direction, provide an update on Animal Services' Communication Strategy for unleashed dogs which has been expected to include responsible pet ownership
- ✓ Introduce proposed amendments to the Animal Control By-law to better address public health, safety, consumer protection and animal welfare
- ✓ Improved efficiency of the appeal process
- ✓ Improve effective delivery of animal services



Overview of Services Currently Provided

- ✓ Shelter and care for stray dogs and cats
- ✓ Public education / awareness, outreach and promotion of responsible pet ownership
- ✓ Reuniting families with lost pets
- ✓ Pet licensing
- ✓ Adoption services
- ✓ Community partnerships with large pet retailers
- ✓ Immunization and sterilization of strays
- ✓ Emergency response for sick or injured stray dogs and cats
- ✓ Community support and response through by-law enforcement
- ✓ Service two sister municipalities



Proposed Amendments

- ✓ Restricting the Sale of Dogs & Cats
- ✓ Biting/Menacing Dogs
- ✓ Unattended Dogs
- ✓ Feeding of Wildlife and Use of Attractants
- ✓ Prohibited Species
- ✓ Enhanced Appeal Process
- ✓ Introduction of Appeal Fee



Proposed Restriction on the Sale of Dogs & Cats by Pet Stores/Retail Establishments

A review of current industry trends, emerging public interest and comparative of other municipalities suggests that a restriction on the sale of commercially-bred dogs and cats by pet stores / retail establishments is in the best interest of the community, public safety, and the welfare of the animals.



Benefit: Public Health

- ✓ Limit transmission of disease
- ✓ Rabies control (zoonoses)
- ✓ Sterilization
- ✓ Vaccination
- ✓ Identification



Benefit: Consumer Protection

- ✓ Reduce the likelihood of impulse pet purchases and subsequent surrender
- ✓ Increase responsible pet ownership
- ✓ Reduce the incidence of animal illness/death through viral disease and associated veterinary costs to owners
- ✓ Adoption animals are typically vaccinated, dewormed, identified and sterilized



Benefit: Animal Welfare

- ✓ Reduce unwanted pet overpopulation
- ✓ Reduce pressures on municipalities to address increasing overpopulation
- ✓ Ensure all animals receive humane care



Dog & Cat Sales from Pet Stores

Proposed

- Sourced from shelters, rescues and humane societies
- Pre-adoption immunization and sterilization required

Existing By-law 53-2002

- No prohibitions



Biting / Menacing Dogs

- ✓ A more effective and proactive preventative approach to aggressive dog behaviours
- ✓ Introduction of authority to impose preventative measures and restrictions including:
 - Muzzling
 - Sterilization
 - Microchipping
 - Handler age (ie. adult only)
 - Fencing requirements
 - Warning signage, etc.
- ✓ Enhanced Appeal Process



Benefit: Consumer Protection

- ✓ Preventative measure to reduce likelihood of bite incident
- ✓ Greater protection for public at large and pet owners
- ✓ Improved public service



Benefit: Animal Welfare

- ✓ Less likelihood of bite incident and possibility of imposing severe remedy
- ✓ Customized remedy better suited for the pet (and pet owner)



Biting/Menacing Dogs

Proposed	Existing By-law 53-2002
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Authority to impose preventative restrictions based on incident / needs prior to biting incident• Restrictions do not require dog to be impounded or at large• Reserve use of DOLA for only most serious incidents (eg. Destruction Orders).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Muzzle Orders restricted to dogs impounded while at large and only after bite incident• No authority to impose preventative restrictions• No authority to address for menacing dog behaviours• Lengthy prosecution and use of DOLA (12+months)



Unattended Dogs

- ✓ Introduction of restrictions to prevent dogs from being left tethered and unattended in places that may create a possible risk to humans, themselves or other animals.



Benefit: Consumer Protection

- ✓ Reduces likelihood of risk of injury to public
- ✓ Reduces likelihood of poor conditions (dog feces) in public areas, spaces or lands (eg: public dog park)



Benefit: Animal Welfare

- ✓ Reduces likelihood of incidents where dog may pose a risk to themselves



Unattended Dogs

Proposed	Existing By-law 53-2002
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Restrict ability to leave dogs unattended where they may pose a risk / danger to themselves or others• Introduce provisions for use of public off-leash dog parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provisions only applicable to dogs at large• No restrictions relating to public off-leash dog parks



Feeding of Wildlife and Use of Attractants

- ✓ Prohibit the feeding of wildlife and use of attractants to prevent intentional or accidental luring of wild animals into urban areas
- ✓ Prohibit the use of leg-hold traps, which may be very dangerous to unintended victims, such as children and / or domestic animals
- ✓ Prohibit poor property conditions that can be associated with use of wildlife attractants



Benefit: Consumer Protection

- ✓ Reduces likelihood of unintentional luring of wildlife into urban areas
- ✓ Reduces poor property conditions that can be associated with attracting of wildlife
- ✓ Reduces likelihood of injury to wildlife



Wildlife

Proposed	Existing By-law 53-2002
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prohibition of feeding / use of wildlife attractants to discourage unintended luring of wildlife into urban/residential areas• Provisions to address property conditions caused by feeding of wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No prohibitions



Prohibited Animals

- ✓ More comprehensive list of prohibited species, including prohibition of raptors and all constrictors (eg: snakes), offering improved public safety
- ✓ Regulations for traveling circuses to address public interest and safety, including the right of inspection to ensure adequate security of animals, conditions and vaccination protocols



Benefit: Consumer Protection

- ✓ Restricts keeping of potentially dangerous species (eg: raptors, constrictors)
- ✓ Improved language for public consumption and understanding
- ✓ Assists in voluntary compliance and reduces likelihood of violations
- ✓ Provides regulations to reduce likelihood of risk from temporary exhibits (eg: travelling circuses)



Prohibited Species

Proposed	Existing By-law 53-2002
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enhanced identification list / schedule• Improved language regarding restricted species (eg: raptors)• Right of inspection for temporary exhibits, public shows or circuses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limited identified species• No authority relating to temporary exhibits, public shows or circuses



Enhanced Appeal Process

- ✓ Delegate authority to City's Hearings Officer to preside over appeal hearings for Orders under By-law
- ✓ Utilizing an existing and effective quasi-judicial process



Benefit: Customer Service

- ✓ Ensures fairness and due process
- ✓ Improved public service
- ✓ Speedier resolution



Enhanced Appeal Process

Proposed	Existing By-law 53-2002
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adopt a proven quasi-judicial process• Delegate authority to preside over appeal hearings to the City's Hearings Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Heard by Council or Committee of Council• Potentially lengthy appeal process



Introduction of Appeal Fee

- ✓ City of Vaughan 2014-2017 Budget Guidelines – User Fees –maximize cost recovery through consideration of “user fees”
- ✓ Appeal fees will contribute to off-setting costs for administration of the appeal process
- ✓ Proposed fee of \$125 for appeal of Orders is comparable to similar application fees



Comparative Municipal Response

City of Toronto

Every keeper of a pet shop must obtain cats and dogs from only the following sources:

- ✓ *municipal animal shelters*
- ✓ *registered humane societies*
- ✓ *registered shelters*
- ✓ *rescue groups*

City of Mississauga

Every Person licensed under this By-law and Schedule shall:

- ✓ *If such person sells more than 10 cats or dogs per year, obtain these animals from one of the following sources only: municipal animal shelters; registered humane societies; registered shelters; or rescue groups*

City of Kingston

The following special conditions apply to every pet store:

- ✓ *No dog, cat or rabbit shall be purchased or taken in for free for sale by a pet store after August 13, 2013*
- ✓ *No dog, cat or rabbit shall be sold in a pet store after November 13, 2013*
- ✓ *If the OSPCA finds an animal that is in distress, the Licensing Section may suspend or revoke the license*
- ✓ *A license may be revoked or suspended where an animal is sold or offered for sale where it is prohibited by federal or provincial law, or Municipal By-law of the City of Kingston*



Next Steps

- ✓ Prepare amending By-law for submission to Committee for Council's consideration and adoption for the end of [Q2 2014](#), with an enactment date in [Q3 2014](#)
- ✓ Provide training to staff and Animal Control Officers on application, administration and enforcement of new provisions – [Q3 2014](#)
- ✓ Augment a Communications Strategy, including use of all social media solutions, highlighting new By-law requirements – [Q3 2014](#)
- ✓ Communicate changes directly to all pet retailers, industry stakeholders and known animal advocates – [Q3 2014](#)
- ✓ Communicate new provisions to regional municipalities in York and external government partners – [Q3 2014](#)

Questions

Q&A

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (WORKING SESSION) - JANUARY 21, 2014

VAUGHAN ANIMAL SERVICES BY-LAW REVIEW & COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Legal & Administrative Services/City Solicitor and Director of By-law and Compliance recommend:

1. That Animal Control By-law 53-2002, as amended, be further amended in accordance with the recommendations contained within this Report, to include:
 - a. restrictions to better address aggressive or menacing dog behaviours in order to minimize the potential of a bite or future incident;
 - b. restrictions that prohibit dogs from being left unattended or tethered in places that may create a possible risk to humans, themselves or other animals;
 - c. restrictions on the feeding of wildlife or use of wildlife attractants in order to prevent the intentional or unintentional luring of animals in residential areas;
 - d. restrictions on the sale of dogs and cats in pet stores and retail establishments, unless sourced from a shelter, humane society or rescue organization;
 - e. adoption of an improved schedule of prohibited species;
 - f. delegation of authority to the City's Hearings Officer to preside over appeal hearings regarding the By-law; and
2. That Fees and Charges By-law 396-2002, as amended, be further amended to reflect the introduction of an appeal process fee of \$125.

Contribution to Sustainability

Adoption of the recommendations contained within this Report reflects a more progressive and proactive approach intended to reduce proliferation of strays resulting from unwanted and abandoned pets, and greater protection of health and well-being of our communities, environment and natural wildlife.

Economic Impact

The recommendations within this Report include the establishment of a new fee of \$125 for appeals relating to muzzling orders or other restrictions imposed with respect to a menacing or biting dog, in order to offset related costs of administering the appeal process. The City of Vaughan 2014-2017 Budget Guidelines – User Fees identifies that it is inherent within the budget process to maximize costs recovered on services provided, inclusive of submissions for new “user fee” opportunities for existing non-revenue generating services.

Staff expect an increase in appeal applications with the introduction of the authority to impose preventative control measures through issuance of Orders under the By-law. An estimated projection of 10% of possible Orders issued may result in an expected 8 to 10 appeal applications in 2014 at a fee of \$125 per application. This increase is based on logical projection and review of 85 dog bite investigations having been carried out in 2013. Further, with the City's annual hearings schedule through the Administrative Monetary Penalty program providing three hearing

dates per month, staff anticipate that the increase in related appeal hearings can be accommodated within the current hearings schedule. However, should a demand arise for scheduling of additional hearing dates, the additional projected \$1,250 (10 appeals @ \$125) appeal fee revenue will recover costs associated with two additional full days of hearings, without increased financial pressure on the projected 2014 Departmental operating budget.

Implementation of the Communication Strategy developed by staff, at the request of Council, to advance responsible pet ownership will require funding. Providing and sustaining public outreach, education and awareness initiatives is becoming increasingly challenging. Although the Department continues to capitalize on "in-kind" services through partnering with Corporate Communications, Access Vaughan and other departments, the demands to sustain this focus is outpacing Departmental fiscal assets and resources (both human and financial). During the 2013 fiscal year, in excess of 200 over-time service hours were attributed to attending events outside of core business hours (after 6:00 pm and on weekends), with an additional \$7,000 spent on promotional materials. Estimated costs associated with sustaining a similar level of public outreach are projected at \$9,000+ in continued over-time hours and an estimated 30% increase (approximately \$3,000) for additional promotional materials. As public awareness and knowledge increases, staff anticipate an increase in demand for attendance at public forums and events adding pressure to current limited resources.

Communications Plan

Upon adoption of the amending By-law, communication and public outreach will be facilitated through notification to key industry stakeholders, pet industry partners and known advocates. Information pamphlets identifying key changes will be made available at community centres, the Vaughan Animal Shelter, By-law & Compliance Office at City Hall, distributed by field officers and provided at public events and forums.

Staff will continue to seek opportunities to educate youth on the importance of responsible pet ownership and bite prevention, through attendance at school functions and improved partnerships with school officials, as time and resources permit.

In addition to the above, staff will continue to partner with Corporate Communications in the further development of our current public outreach campaign, including publicizing of newly adopted By-law amendments, such as introduction of an appeal fee, through use of the City's website and social media solutions.

Purpose

The purpose of this Report is to:

- 1) Provide Council with an update on the Communication Strategy that has been implemented by the By-law & Compliance Department (Animal Services Section) to promote responsible pet ownership in relation to unleashed dogs in the City of Vaughan, in response to Council direction dated March 8, 2011 (Attachment # 1 – Excerpt of Council Meeting Minutes - Report No. 11, Item 9);
- 2) Introduce recommended amendments to the Animal Control By-law that will:
 - a. Minimize the potential for dog bites/attacks through improved regulatory authority;
 - b. Restrict the sale of dogs and cats from pet stores and retail establishments;
 - c. Create an improved Prohibited Animal Schedule to the By-law;
 - d. Prohibit the feeding of wildlife and use of wildlife attractants;

- e. Delegate authority of hearing appeals to the City's appointed Hearings Officer; and
- 3) Introduce recommended amendments to the Fees & Charges By-law to establish a fee for appeal of orders (eg: Muzzle Orders).

These recommendations are being proposed to improve health, safety, consumer protection and animal welfare.

Background - Analysis and Options

At its meeting of March 8, 2011, City Council directed staff to develop a Communication Strategy to make dog owners aware of their responsibility to manage their pets as required by law. Staff was to provide a report to a future Committee of the Whole meeting regarding actions taken in response to unleashed dogs and dog attacks in the community.

In response to the direction of City Council, staff developed and implemented an extensive Communication Strategy to further advance responsible pet ownership within the City, as well as bringing forward proposed improvements to the Animal Control By-law that will allow staff to more effectively address circumstances relating to aggressive dog behaviours. In the context of developing these proposed amendments and development of a Communication Strategy, staff undertook a fulsome review of the Animal Control By-law, with an emphasis on relevance and suitability to current and future community needs, and identified other areas of the Animal Control By-law that required improvement.

In preparation for this Report, staff consulted with industry stakeholders, including pet store retailers, such as: PJ's Pet Centres; Safari Pet Centres Vaughan Mills; Pet Valu; PetSmart; the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council of Canada (PIJAC Canada); the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA); The Association of Animal Administrators of Ontario; Canadian Federation of Humane Societies and animal advocacy groups. Vaughan Animal Services continues to dialogue with residents of the City of Vaughan through contact with the public, proactive outreach and educational initiatives on an ongoing basis.

In addition, a public consultation was held on November 20, 2013 at City Hall regarding the recommendations contained within this Report. Public Notice was delivered through media publications and the City's website. At the public consultation meeting, staff provided a presentation summarizing the main themes of the proposed recommendations. There was no opposition with respect to the proposed amendments. Areas of interest identified by the public included additional off-leash parks and/or consideration of expanded use of existing parkland allowing for dogs to be off-leash during designated times and/or identified areas. In addition, further comments included an interest to reduce or eliminate the restriction of having to keep dogs on a leash, claiming the By-law was ineffective and restricts responsible pet owners from allowing their dogs off-leash for proper socialization. Although staff acknowledged the comments provided, consideration of additional off-leash dog parks or expanded use of current parklands was not within the scope or purpose of this particular consultation, the Animal Services By-law review or proposed amendments.

A comparison of other municipalities' by-laws was completed in preparation for this Report (See Attachment #2).

COMMUNICATION STRATEGY AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Website and Social Media

Although the Resolution from Council in March of 2011 focused mainly on unleashed dogs, there are many other facets of responsible pet ownership, such as vaccination, pet identification and pet licensing, all of which are required by the Animal Control By-law. Staff has undertaken several communication and public outreach initiatives to educate dog owners and improve awareness in these areas.

With the ever increasing reliance on technology for gathering and receiving information, a key component of the Communication Strategy involves partnering with Corporate Communications, for improvement of the City's websites and the use of social media. Improvements to the Animal Services website includes easier navigation, enhanced information regarding pet vaccination, pet licensing, direct links to related by-laws and other relevant resources, such as urban wildlife information, neighbouring animal shelters/humane societies, relevant provincial agencies, etc.

Staff is also utilizing Facebook to advertise a variety of Animal Services' initiatives, including but not limited to, events, responsible pet ownership tips and By-law requirements. The use of Facebook has improved accessibility of Animal Services, enabled residents to pose questions, inquiries and offer comments for response by Animal Services' staff. Facebook has proven to be a valuable resource, featuring specific pets, photos of available adoption animals and generating many adoption inquiries; as well as an effective mode of communication for clients to post pictures and provide updates on the progress of their newly adopted pets. Animal Services receives many inquiries regarding volunteer opportunities posted therein.

Most recently in October 2013, By-law & Compliance Animal Services staff worked collaboratively with staff from Corporate Communications in the development and successful launch of information regarding the feeding of wildlife through the City's new blog page.

Promotional Material

Recognizing that some residents do not use social media or access websites, staff developed an information pamphlet which outlines the provisions in the Animal Control By-law pertaining to animals running at large and provides useful tips for preventing dog bites, such as spaying and neutering, socializing and proper supervision. These information pamphlets are available at the City of Vaughan Animal Shelter and By-law & Compliance Department office at Vaughan City Hall, and continue to be distributed at all public events and by Animal Control Officers when engaging the public in the field. In addition to pamphlets, staff developed and offered auto magnets and business card magnets for a small donation, which offered residents convenient access to contact information for Animal Services. Staff continues to utilize all available avenues and explore new opportunities to improve and expand public outreach and awareness.

Special Event Participation and Education

Another key component of the communication public outreach strategy is the participation of Animal Services staff in a number of special events and other public venues/forms. Since 2011, staff participated in a number of events, including but not limited to the following:

- a) Man's Best Friend Show (Vaughan Citizen);
- b) Maplefest (Vaughan);
- c) Carrot Fest (Bradford);
- d) Schomberg Fair (King);
- e) Bradford County Fair (Bradford);
- f) Maple Lions Pancake Festival (Vaughan);
- g) Concerts in the Park (Vaughan);
- h) Vaughan Safety Expo (Vaughan Mills Mall);

- i) Santa Fest Parade (Vaughan);
- j) Operation V.A.L.U.E “Vulnerable Animals Left Unattended Everyday” (Vaughan Mills Mall);
- k) Movember (Vaughan);
- l) City TV News “Pick A Pet” to showcase adoption animals;
- m) Vaughan TV (City Hall);
- n) Reptillia Camp;
- o) Special Adoption Events (held semi-annually);
- p) Rabies and Microchip Clinics (held semi-annually);
- q) Attendance at satellite Cat Adoption centers (PetSmart & Pet Valu).

Staff also participated in various school initiatives to engage, educate and improve awareness amongst the students at Seneca College and Maple Montessori School.

This enhanced focus on public education and awareness is further emphasized by Animal Control Officers while carrying out their duties in the communities. Animal Control Officers distribute promotional materials and educate residents focusing on the benefits of responsible pet ownership and related By-law requirements at any opportunity that may arise while in the field, including during the course of investigations and when responding to public inquiries and complaints. Animal Services staff continue to attend public events, engage with educational institutions and seek future opportunities for greater outreach and improved public awareness as time and resources permit.

BITING, MENACING AND UNLEASHED DOGS

In the course of creating a Communication Strategy for responsible pet ownership, staff also identified proposed improvements to the Animal Control By-law in an attempt to further prevent the possibility of attacks by unleashed dogs in the City.

Currently, the Animal Control By-law automatically requires a dog that has bitten to be muzzled and leashed when not on the premises of the owner and to be restrained when on the premises of the owner (such as a secure and fenced yard). Although these current regulatory provisions serve as a preventative measure following an occurrence, the current by-law provisions offer no avenue for prevention prior to an attack, is only triggered once a dog has bitten and is only enforceable if the dog was impounded by staff for being at large. There are many situations in which Animal Control Officers respond to and investigate complaints regarding aggressive dogs where there may be a likelihood that the dog may bite in the future, however, preventative restrictions cannot be ordered until the dog actually bites.

Pursuant to the *Dog Owners’ Liability Act* of Ontario, the City may commence proceedings in the Ontario Court of Justice to obtain an Order requiring preventative measures for a menacing dog, including a muzzling order, a destruction order or any other effective control measures the Court deems advisable. However, these proceedings are costly, lengthy and therefore not entirely effective.

A review of departmental records for the period of 2012 and 2013 revealed that the By-law & Compliance Department received and investigated approximately 410 calls for service/case files regarding unleashed dogs and 125 calls regarding alleged dog attacks. These records include case files within King Township and Bradford West Gwillimbury, since these two municipalities are presently under service contract to Vaughan Animal Services.

Within the City of Vaughan, records reflect 174 case files relating to dogs off-leash and 85 relating to alleged dog bites/attacks for the same period. As a result of the 85 dog bite investigations, 2 charges were laid, 1 muzzle order proceeding commenced and an Order was granted through the Ontario Court of Justice pursuant to the Dog Owners' Liability Act of Ontario and 3 animals were euthanized by Vaughan Animal Services (1 stray and 2 surrendered by the dog owners). Of the remaining 79 investigations, 1 dog was released to Toronto Animal Services; with the remaining 78 cases concluding due to insufficient information/lack of evidence or the inability to consider or impose preventative measures. In all cases, resolution included educating the dog owners regarding responsible pet ownership.

Of the 174 off-leash dog case files, 18 charges were laid, with the remaining cases resulting in insufficient information/lack of evidence to proceed and education of the dog owners.

Accordingly, staff are recommending that the City adopt a more effective and proactive approach to deal with aggressive dog behaviours by supporting the proposed amendments to the Animal Control By-law to grant authority to issue Orders where there are reasonable grounds to believe that a dog may or is likely to bite in the future. Proposed changes within the By-law include the ability to impose preventative control measures, allowing staff to act without the need for a dog to be found at large. Reasonable grounds would include, but are not limited to, menacing or threatening behaviours, previous occurrences, history and any other relevant information as identified and determined during the course of an investigation.

In addition to imposing restrictions or effective controls such as being muzzled, leashed or otherwise restrained accordingly, staff recommend that the Animal Control By-law be further amended to increase the measures that can be ordered and/or imposed. These may include but are not limited to: prohibitions on any person under the age of 18 from walking the dog; the dog be microchipped and sterilized; and that there be warning signage posted at the owner's home. These additional preventative measures effectively mitigate risk to both the public at large and to the dog owner(s). Staff believe these proposed improvements will better assist in mitigating and/or preventing the possibility of future dog bites in the City. Similar restrictions exist in other municipalities' by-laws.

To ensure fairness and due process, the Animal Control By-law currently provides for appeals of muzzling, leashing or other restraining Orders to be heard before Council or Committee of Council. This appeal is akin to a court process: evidence is entered; witnesses are subject to examination and cross-examination; and legal submissions are made. In this respect, members of Council are acting as quasi-judicial officers. Given the demanding schedule of Council, scheduling of additional meetings and obtaining quorum for hearings, these appeals may be difficult to process. Accordingly, staff recommends that the appropriate amendments be made to the Animal Control By-law delegating the appeal function to the City's Hearings Officer, currently appointed and presiding over appeals pursuant to the City's Administrative Monetary Penalty ("AMP") program.

UNATTENDED DOGS

Staff identified the need for further amendments to the By-law to clarify expectations in any public off-leash park in order to mitigate potential for aggressive scenarios. Recommended amendments will include restrictions to ensure that dogs are not left tethered and unattended in places that may create a possible risk to humans, the animals themselves or other animals.

WILDLIFE ATTRACTANTS

Proposed amendments include prohibiting the feeding of wildlife or the use of attractants in order to prevent intentional or unintentional/accidental luring of wild animals into areas that places wildlife and citizens in circumstances that may lead to unprovoked interaction with one another (eg: urban areas). Proposed recommendations offer additional benefits in line with and supportive of existing regulatory by-laws, by providing the ability to address and deter activities that can lead or contribute to poor property conditions. New proposed amendments will also prohibit the use of leg-hold traps (used as a capture method), which can be very dangerous to

unintended victims, such as domestic animals and/or children. Staff have determined similar restrictions exist in the City of Mississauga's By-law, but are not addressed consistently within many other municipalities' by-laws.

PROHIBITED ANIMALS

Prohibited animals are currently identified through a Schedule of the Animal Control By-law. Proposed amendments will include prohibition of the keeping of raptors (birds of prey) and a prohibition on the keeping of constrictors (snakes). To minimize the possibility of a negative impact to any existing pet retailers who may house an inventory of constrictors for sale within the City of Vaughan, staff will be introducing the appropriate amending language providing retailers one year from passing of the By-law to retail their inventory accordingly.

In addition, staff recommend clarification of the language within the prohibited species section, making the By-law easier for public consumption and understanding; and the establishment of a list of criteria for traveling circuses to address public interest and safety. This criterion includes confirmation of animal security and right of inspection to ensure adequate conditions and vaccination protocols. Staff has determined that varied restrictions exist in other municipalities' by-laws.

RESTRICTION OF DOG AND CAT SALES IN PET STORES & RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS

Restriction of the sale of dogs and cats by pet stores and all retail establishments has been raised as a concern by various citizens and the broader public at large. Concerns have included that the majority of dog and cat sales through retail establishments are sold at an age where the dogs or cats are too young to be spayed, neutered or adequately vaccinated; in essence adding to further proliferation of unwanted pets, risk of transmissible diseases such as rabies, and increased demands placed on Animal Services in many municipalities.

In August 2013, the By-law & Compliance Department was made aware of an electronic Facebook petition initiated by a public advocate in support of this ban. At the time this Report was prepared, this Facebook petition remained active with over 3000+ supporters responding from around the world.

In response to many of these inquiries and above-noted concerns, staff undertook to investigate community interests by initiating a comparative review of other municipalities (Attachment #2) and consultation with key industry stakeholders. Staff consulted with the pet retail industry, namely PJ's Pet Centres, Safari Pet Centres Vaughan Mills, Pet Valu, PetSmart; along with the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council of Canada (PIJAC), the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA), Dr Catherine Filejski – Public Health Veterinarian of Health Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, and animal advocacy representatives. The following consultation results chart provides the following findings:

PET INDUSTRY CONSULTATION RESULTS CHART	
ORGANIZATION	COMMENTS / RATIONALE FOR SUPPORTING A BAN
Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care - Dr. Catherine Filejski, Public Health Veterinarian	Public Health and Protection - Greater prevention and control of spread of zoonotic diseases through preventative disease control. Improved health and well-being of the animals, reducing the likelihood of rabies transmissions to both animals and humans.
Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA)	Animal welfare. Supports interests of the OSPCA.
Humane Society of Canada	Reduces the burden of unwanted pets surrendered to animal shelters. Minimizes prevalence of animal overpopulation, abandoned animals and strays.
PJ's Pets	Pro-actively moved to facilitating animal adoptions in the interest of animal welfare.
PetValu	Animal welfare. Due diligence is taken by reputable recognized breeders to ensure their animals are adopted into a good home.
Advocate – Kasey Dunn	Animal welfare. Consumer protection.
Advocate – Michelle DaRe	Animal welfare. Supports interests of neighbouring municipalities.
Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council of Canada (PIJAC Canada)	Advocates for responsible pet sales on behalf of the Canadian pet industry.

In addition to the above consultation, staff held a public meeting on November 20, 2013 at City Hall that highlighted the proposed amendments.

The consultative process undertaken by staff further concluded that additional benefits may also be realized by the City of Vaughan, similar to that of other municipalities such as:

- Reduction in increased public service demands caused by proliferation of strays;
- Reduction in stray and abandoned animals;
- Reduction in the number of impulse pet purchases, further adding to increased unwanted animals ending up in shelters, rescues and humane societies; and
- Most importantly, reduction in the risk of the transmission of animal diseases such as rabies.

The risk of rabies was realized in January 2008, when a puppy sold at Doctor Flea's flea market within the City of Toronto, tested positive for rabies. Although there have been no other known incidents of this nature since that time, the incident may have been avoided with the appropriate restrictions in place.

Not unlike other regulatory schemes intended to address systemic issues and mitigate potential risks in the interest of the public, there is no absolute method to quantify other expected benefits. However, it is reasonable to conclude as other cities have, that more effective regulatory controls provide a governance system that offers greater confidence in our communities, supports greater consumer protection and public health, can contribute to further deterring "hoarding" and unlawful "puppy mill" operations from operating within Ontario (in accordance with and supportive of OSPCA mandates) and from a broader, more global perspective, these proposed measures contribute to the greater good and welfare of the community and the welfare of the animals within.

There is an increasing trend and interest amongst the animal care industry associations, such as the Association of Animal Shelter Administrators of Ontario and the Canadian Federation of Humane Society's to consider regulatory controls, including restrictions on the sale of commercially bred dogs and cats, at the municipal level.

Through assessment of the above data, staff recommend that, and believe in the interest of consumer protection, well-being and public safety, there is sufficient reason and evidence to support the introduction of the appropriate amendments to the City of Vaughan Animal Control By-law by limiting and moving to limit the sale of dogs or cats sold through pet stores and retail establishments to animals that are sourced from a shelter, rescue organization and/or humane society.

It is important to note that currently there are no known pet retailers engaged in the sale of dogs and cats not sourced from a shelter, animal rescue or humane society within the City of Vaughan. Supporting the above recommended related amendment(s) has no adverse effect on any established businesses within the City.

As other municipalities continue to introduce such regulatory controls, not proceeding progressively to do so within the City of Vaughan provides a forum by which retail operations may eventually migrate to the City, further exasperating the issue of increased risks to the public and increased proliferation of abandoned animals. Supporting the introduction of such regulatory controls will deter this activity, provide a level playing field for the pet industry and further support the global interests of our City and that of neighbouring municipalities.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

The proposed recommendations contained within this Report are directly aligned with the City's strategy of citizens first through service excellence, by focusing on public education for improved public awareness through providing a more comprehensive and effective Animal Control By-law, along with the introduction of necessary regulations that better address consumer protection, public interests, health and safety, and animal care within the City of Vaughan.

Regional Implications

Adoption of proposed amendments within this Report provides an enhanced regulatory framework that directly supports regional and provincial public health mandates and legislation in respect of zoonotic diseases such as rabies.

Conclusion

The findings and recommendations contained within this Report will create a more comprehensive regulatory framework for delivery of animal services that is better aligned with community needs, public health, safety and well-being.

Attachments

1. Extract of Council Meeting Minutes of March 2011 (Report No. 11, Item 9)
2. Municipal Comparative Chart

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ATTACHMENT # 1

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 8, 2011

Item 9, Report No. 11, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on March 8, 2011.

9

UNLEASHED DOGS

The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following resolution submitted by Councillor Shefman, dated February 22, 2011:

Member's Resolution

Whereas, there has been a recent attack of an unleashed dog in our City, and

Whereas, residents of the immediate area where the attack took place and beyond have expressed their concern regarding the growing number of unleashed dogs in our parks and on our streets.

Therefore, be it resolved, that staff develop a communication strategy forthwith to make dog owners aware of their responsibility to manage their pets as required by law; and that staff provide a report to a future Committee of the Whole meeting regarding actions taken in response to unleashed dogs and dog attacks in the community.

ATTACHMENT # 2

MUNICIPAL COMPARATIVE CHART						
Municipality	Pet Store Restriction	Biting/Menacing Dogs Restrictions (ie: Muzzle Order, Designation)	Fee for Appeal Process	Feeding of Wildlife or Use of Attractants Restriction	Prohibited Species Restrictions	
					Constrictor Snakes	Raptors
Vaughan	Proposed	Proposed	Proposed	Proposed	Proposal to prohibit all constrictors	Proposed
Toronto	YES	YES	YES	NO	All snakes which reach an adult length larger than 3 metres are prohibited	YES
Mississauga	YES	YES	YES	YES	Snakes that reach an adult length larger than 3 metres are prohibited	YES
Brampton	NO	YES	YES	NO	All constrictors prohibited	YES
Oshawa	NO	YES	YES	NO	Any member of the family Pythonidae or Boidae, save and except members of the family Pythonidae or Boidae reaching an adult length of no greater than two (2) metres are prohibited	YES
Kingston	YES	YES	Unknown	NO	Must be contained in public	YES
Richmond (BC)	YES	YES	Unknown	NO	All snakes which reach an adult length larger than 3 metres are prohibited	YES
Markham	NO	YES	Unknown	NO	All Pythonidae and Boidae prohibited, all other snakes that reach an adult length larger than 3 metres prohibited	YES
Richmond Hill	NO (currently being proposed)	YES	Unknown	NO	All Pythonidae and Boidae prohibited	YES