



**Animal Alliance
of Canada**



**Animal Alliance
Environment Voters
Party of Canada**

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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

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CW(ws)
January 21/14
Item 1