

Animal Welfare Community Advisory Committee

Report

9th Meeting of the Animal Welfare Community Advisory Committee
September 5, 2024

Attendance PRESENT: W. Brown (Chair), L. Armstrong, M. Blosh, A. Hames, A. Hayes, N. Karsch, M. Love and M. Toplack and H. Lysynski (Acting Committee Clerk)

ABSENT: M. Rist

ALSO PRESENT: J. Bunn, S. Corman, W. Jeffery, O. Katolyk, M. McBride and J. Stanford

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM; it being noted that W. Brown, L. Armstrong, M. Blosh, A. Hayes, N. Karsch and M. Toplack were in remote attendance.

1. Call to Order

1.1 Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest

That it BE NOTED that no pecuniary interests were disclosed.

2. Scheduled Items

None.

3. Consent

3.1 8th Report of the Animal Welfare Community Advisory Committee

That it BE NOTED that the 8th Report of the Animal Welfare Community Advisory Committee, from the meeting held on August 1, 2024, was received.

3.2 Municipal Council Resolution - 6th and 7th Reports of the Animal Welfare Community Advisory Committee

That it BE NOTED that the Municipal Council resolution adopted at its meeting held on July 23, 2024, with respect to the 6th and 7th Reports of the Animal Welfare Community Advisory Committee, was received.

4. Sub-Committees and Working Groups

4.1 Rodenticide Awareness Education Sub-Committee Recommendations

That, to enhance the protection of wildlife, the following actions be taken with respect to limiting rodenticides:

a) the attached, revised, communication BE REFERRED to a Community and Protective Services Committee agenda; and,

b) the inclusion of a web page resource with information for the public about preventing wildlife, including rodents, from entering buildings and recommended control methods as well as the feasibility of printing information stickers for pest-prone areas of buildings, such as cafeterias and waste storage facilities, to reduce our reliance on the use of rodenticides and raise awareness of preventative control methods BE CONSIDERED by Civic Administration.

5. Items for Discussion

5.1 Co-existence with Wildlife Awareness and Education Strategies

That, the following actions be taken with respect to the co-existence with wildlife awareness and education strategies:

a) it BE NOTED that the Animal Welfare Community Advisory Committee held a general discussion with respect to these matters; and,

b) it BE NOTED that the Animal Welfare Community Advisory Committee received communications dated August 28, 2024 and August 30, 2024, from K. Scherr, Deputy City Manager, Environment and Infrastructure.

5.2 Trap, Spay, Neuter, Cat Colonies

That a Working Group BE ESTABLISHED to undertake a review of the number of pets that may be let outside that are not spayed or neutered and the number of feral cats that are not spayed or neutered.

5.3 Animal Welfare Community Advisory Committee Banner update

That it BE NOTED that the Animal Welfare Community Advisory Committee held a general discussion with respect to the Animal Welfare Community Advisory Committee banner.

5.4 Budget Expenditure

That it BE NOTED that consideration of the 2024 Animal Welfare Community Advisory Committee Budget was deferred until the next meeting due to loss of quorum.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:08 PM.

Report from AWCAC working group on limiting rodenticides in the City of London

Thursday September 5, 2024

Motion:

That the Animal Welfare Community Advisory Committee REQUEST that

- a) the City print information stickers for wildlife-prone areas of buildings such as cafeterias and waste storage facilities to raise awareness of preventative control methods.
- b) the City create a new page on its website with information for the public about preventing wildlife from entering buildings, and recommended control methods, with the purpose of reducing reliance on rodenticides and their harms to other wildlife and the environment.
- c) That the civic administration attach this document to the AWCAC September meeting report so that it will be included with the Community and Protective Services Committee agenda.

Background:

Wildlife entering buildings (e.g., rodents, insects) poses health and safety issues as well as the risk of damage to properties in London, Ontario. A large proportion of these buildings apply pesticides as their primary management approach, but do not address the underlying reasons for why infestations are occurring. Applications of pesticides may cause secondary harms to wildlife. It is critical to inform building occupants about how their individual behaviours can help to reduce the risk of attracting wildlife into buildings, and this in turn limits the need to apply potentially harmful pesticides. Existing pages on the City's website do not address wildlife entering buildings:

<https://london.ca/living-london/community-services/animal-pet-services/wildlife-city>

<https://london.ca/living-london/water-environment/trees/pest-diseases>

Recommendation:

To reduce the need for pesticides to be applied in buildings and to promote awareness of more effective alternative control methods, AWCAC recommends that the City of London:

1. Print copies of an information sticker intended for applications in building areas at high risk of infestations (e.g., eateries, waste storage facilities). The following design is based on the existing "toilets are not garbage cans sticker" design already printed by the City. AWCAC can provide the raw design file to staff or make requested adjustments. The stickers can be distributed to the public and businesses through the City's existing communication channels.

Proposed new sticker:



Existing sticker:



2. The City's website should be updated with information about managing risk of wildlife entering buildings. Civic administration may refer to the following pages from other jurisdictions for suggestions of copy for the City of London website:
<https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/public-notice-bylaws/bylaw-enforcement/property-standards-keep/rodent-control/>
<https://www.regionofwaterloo.ca/en/living-here/pests.aspx#Rodents>
<https://www.hamilton.ca/home-neighbourhood/house-home/pest-control>
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/pesticides-pest-management/legislation-consultation/rodenticide-ban>
<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/pest-control-tips/rats-mice.html>
(referenced by the Middlesex London Health Unit [here](#))

AWCAC notes that the preferred language for describing prevention of conflicts in buildings is to limit wildlife from entering, such as through applications of exclusion methods and limiting attractants like food and waste. Referring to animals like rodents and insects as “pests” is discouraged, as this perpetuates the idea that the problem is due to wildlife and not human behaviour, and may exacerbate public misunderstanding of the causes of infestations in buildings and animosity towards urban wildlife.