

Re: Community and Protective Services Committee upcoming discussion related to companion pets

Monday, December 02, 2013

For your consideration:

I understand that the sale of companion pets is to come to the agenda in the upcoming weeks. I just wanted to put in my two cents.

I am a teacher and a former Deputy Mayor of the Township of Lucan Biddulph. I understand the process of local politics fairly well. The topic of discussion does have some bearing on me and the community that I serve.

I am teaching something called SWAC (School Within a College). The program is part of the student success initiative of the Ministry of Education and is meant to service students who are at risk of not graduating. The classes occur at Fanshawe College and I am the lead teacher. Each student in the program has a coop placement in the afternoon. This semester I have a young man at a coop placement at Pet Paradise at the corner of Adelaide and Huron.

Pet Paradise is a privately owned Pet Shop and a true community partner and player. I have been into the shop on a number of occasions. Each time I am amazed at how clean and welcoming the store is. In talking with my coop student it is clear that the employees take great care in handling the animals and their living environments are always clean with food and water available. I would hope that any decision of committee and council will take into consideration that small independently owned businesses like this serve a purpose to families that live in the communities. This purpose can be simply to go with the family and pick out a healthy, well adjusted pet or to help with the education of students who live around the corner. Please do not make any rash decisions that would jeopardize the livelihood of this business or the community that it serves.

Thanks,



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