

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION COMMENTS

12. By-law Amendments for Expanded Animal Welfare Initiatives

- E. Sims, London Property Management Association – in addition to the submission included on the public agenda, advising that the LPMA supports the recommendations presented by the staff related to the reduction of permitted numbers for multi-unit properties; requesting that the proposed limit for single family dwellings be reconsidered and reduced; suggesting that the threshold for proposed limits be considered related to whether a property owner is a resident at a location, rather than the number of units; noting that the LMPA is the voice of landlords, and that it is very complex and difficult for landlords to recover damages caused by animals in rental units; and requesting clarity in the by-law between property owners and renters with respect to pet ownership limits.
- A. Pappmehl, member, Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (speaking at the request of the AWAC Chair) – acknowledging the amount of work staff has put toward this initiative; noting that the proposed limits for multi-unit properties is lower than the AWAC would like, but they recognize the need to find balance; requesting time and effort be put in to working with rescue groups and foster homes to ensure that the increased limits are appropriately enforced and noting that there are concerns about improper application (breeders and hoarders); advising that the AWAC continues its work with recognized rescues and will be presenting additional information with respect to this matter.
- M. Blosch, 43 Mayfair Drive – providing the attached presentation and personal background in animal law studies and noting her overall concern is that some sections of the proposed by-law fail to address the philosophy Council has adopted related to care over control and toward a ‘no-kill’ city; expressing concern about the limitations being placed on residents in multi-units residences, suggesting that the size of a unit should be more important to consider; suggesting that the by-laws focus on control and enforcement; noting that there are no reasonable options to come into compliance with the proposed new limits and that there is not enough encouragement to comply and purchase licenses; incentives, not fear, should be used to promote spay/neuter and fostering; advising there should be a maximum amount (not incremental) for license fees as what is proposed is unfair to cat-owners, who will be carrying the burden.
- B. Reynolds, 1535 Trossacks Avenue – advising that he is a condo owner, and expressing concern related to the proposed by-laws in relation to the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms; suggesting that better differentiation between dwelling units is required; proposing a graduated limit system for apartments; suggesting that limiting townhomes will affect fostering opportunities; and offering appreciation for where the proposal is going, but noting it needs additional work.
- M. Sheppard Ennis – noting Council’s mandate of care over control, and desire to move to ‘no kill’; suggesting additional regulation(s) are required for proposals to be successful; presenting a personal story of a cat rescue, and the costs involved; asking all in attendance to commit to personally fostering animals for 2 to 5 years in order to move the plan forward, as too many animals will be displaced.
- A. Valastro, 133 John Street, Unit 1 – indicating that she is a landlord, and that the LPMA does not represent her; noting that there are tools for landlords to allow for the management of issues with tenants and their pets, so the limits should not be different; advising with respect to the circumstances in her neighbourhood related to stray cats that are looked after and keeping the burden off the system and that the new by-law discourages this; noting that people care about animals and are generous and shouldn’t be punished; and noting that the by-law should be based on the health and safety of animals, not on limits.
- P. Dutton, 53 Gerrard Street – advising that she represents rescue organizations and would like to see limits removed entirely for foster homes; noting that the foster homes are carefully chosen and monitored, and need to be able to take on more animals, not less; and advising that rescue organizations recognize which foster homes can manage additional animals, so they should have that responsibility, not an arbitrary by-law number.
- F. Morrison, 803 Waterloo Street, Animal Outreach – suggesting that she echoes the previously stated concerns with the proposed by-law; noting that she is a landlord not represented by the presentation of the LPMA; advising that care is critical, not numbers; suggesting that the Council is taking positive steps but that the limits will force issues underground; suggesting that animals exceeding the limits will be dumped and/or euthanized; suggesting that a limit of 8 animals is more than reasonable by most people’s standards.
- K. McIntosh, 390 Burwell Street, Hoppy Hearts Rabbit Rescue – advising of the animals she currently owns and that she lives in an apartment and would not be in compliance with the new by-law; suggesting that foster home limitations will create a burden on the system; questioning when the limits will be enforced.

- J. Robertson – advising that she has been involved with rescue groups for many years and suggesting that the Council needs to put its faith in rescue groups; suggesting that instituting no limits for rescue groups would save the City money; noting in their history, rescues have resulted in very, very few complaints; suggesting Council's consideration of a two-year pilot project of no limits in numbers for foster homes of recognized rescue groups.
- D. Ennis – noting that he has listened to all the comments, and there are intriguing points of view; suggesting that the tipping point should be on individual's refusal to co-operate; suggesting that one animal can be more disruptive than a group, if not properly attended to; supporting the presentation of M. Blosch; and asking in what way these by-laws help the rescue groups to be successful.