

To All City Councillors, members of AWAC, City Staff

Re: Pet limits in the City of London

The Members of Animalert Pet Adoptions strongly endorse the following:

Priority One: All municipal by-laws pertaining to setting pet limits in the City of London be removed entirely. Any municipal by-law setting pet limits is redundant since there are laws & regulations currently in place that already provide authorities with intervention strategies for animal related issues:

- animal abuse/hoarding issues in the Criminal Code of Canada (Sec 444 & 445) and OSPCA Act (Sec 11.1)
- aggressive/dangerous animals, (DOLA)
- animal situations causing an unhealthy environment, (MLHU – Special Risk & Hoarding Program)
- animals causing property damage, (Tenant Protection Act Part 2, sec. 30 and Part 3, sec. 39)
- animals causing excessive noise (City By-Law PW-12, Part 2.4 (a) + TPA)

If removing all pet limits is not implemented, we recommend

- proceeding with the original staff and AWAC recommendation of 8 animals for all dwelling units. Without a generous pet limit, moving toward being a “No Kill” City as mandated by City Council will be more than challenging.

Priority Two: Re: Being a “No Kill” City - London will need to increase exponentially the housing capacity for unwanted/ homeless companion animals. For example, in 2010, 1,406 cats were killed because they wound up in the animal control system. To not kill these animals but rather place them in interim housing, we would have needed (four years ago) about 700 new foster homes to house them. For the City to achieve “no kill” and to earn the ongoing support of Londoners with companion animals, the citizens of London will need to feel they are in a partnership with the City. In order to create this partnership environment, the City should put in place programs that move from control & enforcement to a program of co-operation. We find it encouraging the City is implementing a consumer rewards program, holding adoption events, continuing with TNR, creating a cat sanctuary. These strategies will help us work toward achieving the ultimate goal of having a community with no more homeless pets.

Rè: **Animal Licensing ...**

Priority One: Licensing indoor cats - **one time, for life**, if the animal's guardian provides **proof of spay/neuter** and **microchipping**. This licensing program in itself should increase spay/neuter/microchipping rates and encourage guardians to keep their felines indoors. If this happens, stray numbers will diminish and, over time, the costs for cat sanctuary, TNR/colony management will go down. In actual fact we may see the tax funded portion reduce for animal services in the City.

As referenced in Jay Stanford's Staff Report – Expanding the Scope of Animal Welfare Initiatives as part of the City's Animal Services Program (June 2011), we have work to do in order to increase the number of licenced cats so that we can increase the return rate for cats (only 5% returned to their owners in 2010)

The Ipsos Reid Survey that was included in this staff report estimated there were over 112,500 cats in the City of London in 2010. In that same year, there were 12,603 cat identification tags sold. So, **almost 100,000** cats were **not** licensed. (88.8% of the cat population had no tags).

By implementing our Priority One Licensing Recommendation, we can build bridges with animal guardians and this will result in the best possible licencing rates for cats. We want to create an atmosphere whereby we encourage voluntary compliance rather than depending on enforced compliance.

In addition, with the City making a commitment to this “once for a lifetime” licencing program for indoor cats, Animalert Pet Adoptions is offering to regularly promote this licensing option in our weekly Adopt-a-Pet feature in the Saturday edition of the London Free Press (sample attached) and will ensure that all new adopters are aware of the program.

To appreciate the contributions of community partners, last year Animalert Pet Adoptions spent over \$105,000 to further our program for spay/neuter/microchipping, adoption and education regarding responsible pet guardianship. We are projected to exceed that total in 2014.

So, in partnership with the City, community rescue groups can all move forward in helping to solve the homeless companion animal problem in the City of London.

Respectfully submitted,

Wm. R. Warder

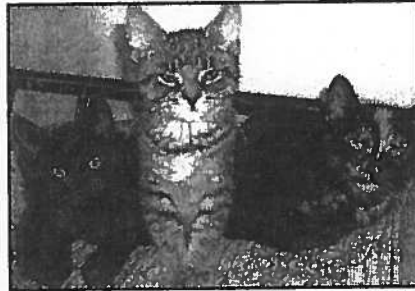
William Warder, Trustee for Animalert Pet Adoptions

ADOPT A PET

A weekly feature in The London Free Press Classified section.



Couch potatoes need not apply. JOSIE is an active one year old flat coat retriever mix who is always ready to chase a ball, go for a swim or a hike in the woods. She is healthy and house-trained – she simply needs the final training touches that will calm her when meeting new people. JOSIE will settle in nicely with an active family with older children. She is spayed, vaccinated, de-wormed, treated with Revolution®, heartworm tested (negative) and micro-chipped. Adoption fee is \$375 which includes all her health records. If you want your family to get away from the T.V. & video games & into a more active lifestyle, JOSIE may be just the answer. To learn more, call 519-642-7732 or email animalertpetadoptions@gmail.com



Introducing, from left to right - SHERLOCK, a black domestic short hair, ZACK, a grey tabby & CINDERELLA, a short-haired Torti. These three were born February 24th under the Pisces sign of the Zodiac. So, true to their sign, they are "gentle, affectionate & easy-going". SHERLOCK, ZACK & CINDERELLA are enjoying the safety & security of an indoor life in a foster home & are very well socialized. They have had their first vaccinations, are healthy & litter trained & will be spayed/neutered when a little older. If you would like to visit SHERLOCK, ZACK & CINDERELLA this weekend, go to the adoption event tomorrow (Sunday) from Noon to 3 pm at the Global Pet Food Store - 395 Wellington Rd 5 at Commissioners - or, call 519-642-7732

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Animalert Pet Adoptions will receive a donation of \$250.

Have a Cat living exclusively an indoor life?

Special Licensing Program offered by the City

Show proof of spay/neuter and micro-chipping

and receive a one time, lifetime licence.