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TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS COMMUNITY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE ON NOVEMBER 17, 2014
FROM:	J. M. FLEMING MANAGING DIRECTOR, PLANNING AND CITY PLANNER JOHN BRAAM, P. ENG. MANAGING DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENTAL & ENGINEERING SERVICES AND CITY ENGINEER
SUBJECT:	HUMANE URBAN WILDLIFE CONFLICT POLICY

RECOMMENDATION

That on the recommendation of The Managing Director, Planning and City Planner and The Managing Director, Environmental and Engineering Services and City Engineer, the following action **BE TAKEN** with respect to the Humane Urban Wildlife Conflict Policy:

- (a) the attached Humane Urban Wildlife Conflict Policy **BE ENDORSED** subject to the creation of operational protocols for the humane treatment of animals in conflict situations;
- (b) the development of operational protocols **BE UNDERTAKEN** through consultation with the applicable provincial and federal agencies and departments to review the risks and to assist in determining the appropriate mitigation measures and approvals if required, and;
- (c) the financial implications of the operational protocols **BE ASSESSED** to determine potential impacts on operational budgets and examine appropriate funding options.

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER
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None.

PURPOSE

To establish a framework to address potential human/ urban wildlife conflicts that may occur on City owned lands in a humane manner.

BACKGROUND

On May 20, 2014 the City of London Council passed the following resolution:

“That the following actions be taken with respect to wildlife management:

- a) The concept of “humane” wildlife management BE ENDORSED in principal;*
- b) The Civic Administration BE REQUESTED to report back at a future meeting of the Community and Protective Services Committee with a draft humane wildlife management policy, such that lethal actions are considered only as a last resort, with supporting information as to why and when lethal management would be used without prior consideration or attempts of non-lethal options;”*

To address part (b), staff have held internal meetings and have met with the Animal Welfare

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Advisory Committee (AWAC) and their Wildlife Sub-Committee to actively discuss the direction and form that the policy should take to meet the intent of part (a) of the resolution.

Within the City of London, there are few serious human/ urban wildlife conflicts. The conflicts that do occur are associated with specific species including beavers, coyotes, deer and geese. Other species that are common throughout urban areas typically are not creating conflicts on City owned lands with regards to causing property damage or affecting public health and safety.

Therefore the consultation process with AWAC has identified that the Policy should be focused on the potential conflicts between humans and wildlife, specifically mammals and birds. The role that the City of London has in the management of urban wildlife and human/urban wildlife conflicts is governed by Provincial Policy, the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997 and the Endangered Species Act, 2007. It is noted that the majority of wildlife management responsibilities and authority rests with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forests (OMNRF). The responsibility for prevention and resolution of wildlife conflict on private property rests with the property owner under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act 1997. City of London owned lands and wildlife “management” actions would be subject to this Act. While the City of London is required to abide by these Acts, the City can pursue and implement measures to provide added protection for animals.

The Humane Urban Wildlife Conflict Policy will promote humane treatment of urban wildlife in identified conflict situations. Specific protocols to be used by staff for identified conflict species will be developed with the input of AWAC, so that they will be in keeping with the Humane Urban Wildlife Conflict Policy.

CONCLUSIONS

The development of operational protocols for the humane treatment of animals in conflict situations will allow for the establishment of appropriate mitigation measures that comply with provincial and federal acts and regulations, balance public safety risks and a healthy ecological environment, all within an urban setting.

Acknowledgements

This report was prepared with the assistance of Scott Mathers, P.Eng. Acting Manager, Stormwater Management Unit and Edward Soldo, P.Eng. Director of Roads and Transportation.

PREPARED BY:	SUBMITTED BY:
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RECOMMENDED BY:	RECOMMENDED BY:
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Appendix A – Draft Humane Urban Wildlife Conflict Policy
(1 Page)

Policy:

The City is committed to upholding high standards of animal welfare, including the humane treatment of wildlife. The City will strive to not interfere with wildlife and their natural processes where possible; and will strive to implement proactive and preventative measures in order to promote coexistence, and to prevent potential conflicts where possible.

From time to time, conflict between humans and wild animals arise within the City of London on City owned lands and the City will be compelled to act to protect property, human health and safety. In these circumstances, the City will strive to protect the welfare of wild animals by using humane solutions to resolve conflicts. To achieve this, the City will make all reasonable efforts to avoid displacing, injuring or killing wild animals. Lethal measures will only be used as a last resort and will employ the most humane methods available.

Trapping devices that are known to cause physical injury to animals, such as body or limb gripping traps and snares, will not be used to trap animals.

The City of London has a role in the management of urban wildlife and human/urban wildlife conflicts within the City on City owned lands. The City recognizes that the majority of wildlife management responsibilities and authority rests with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forests (OMNRF) specifically under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997 and the Endangered Species Act, 2007. The responsibility for prevention and resolution of wildlife conflict on private property rests with the property owner under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997. City of London owned lands and actions would be subject to this Act.

Cases of public health and safety involving the London Police Service with a wildlife conflict situation are exempt from this Policy. The London Police Service is governed by its own mechanisms and procedures under the Police Services Act (1990). The primary duty of an officer under the Act is to protect the peace 42(1). The London Police Service is obligated to assess a wildlife conflict situation and take whatever actions are necessary to protect public health and safety.

Where the City cannot resolve the conflict through all reasonable conflict resolution options identified by the City of London, such situations and the outcomes will be reported on a quarterly basis to the Community and Protective Services Committee.

Definitions:

“animal” means a member of the class Aves (birds) and Mammalia (mammals), but does not include a human being; excluding rats and mice

“City” means The Corporation of the City of London

“urban” means within the City of London’s urban growth boundary as delineated on Schedule A of the City of London Official Plan

“displace” means to physically remove an animal from the location where it resides

“humane” means that a practice will not reasonably cause physical injury or undue hardship or suffering to an animal

“wild” means non-domesticated

“conflict” means wildlife causing damage to property or affecting public health and safety