

YOUR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS

That the Community and Protective Services Committee and Municipal Council BE REQUESTED to uphold the current by-law PH-3 Animal Control By-law and maintain the ban on pigs being kept within the City of London.

The Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC) requests that the Community and Protective Services Committee consider the three attached documents in relation to this request.

After a careful review of the available research, the AWAC supports upholding the current by-law "PH-3 Animal Control By-law" and maintaining the ban on pigs being kept within the City of London. The research of AWAC confirms and supports all of the information and concerns put forth in the letters of both Florine Morrison of Animal Outreach dated April 7, 2016 and Sioban Poole of Cedar Row Farm Sanctuary dated April 7, 2016. The AWAC's research confirms that there is no such animal as a 'teacup' or 'mini' pig. These pigs could be considered 'miniature' when compared to classic pigs that typically weigh 500 to 1000 pounds. However, sellers that claim to have teacup/mini pigs are merely selling young pigs who will grow to be at least 100 pounds unless these animals are severely underfed by their owners. This underfeeding leads to malnourishment and starvation and has a direct impact on the welfare of the pigs. This is not a practice that the City of London should condone given its mandate of providing a caring community for animals.

In addition to the concerns brought forth by Animal Outreach and Cedar Row Farm Sanctuary, which the AWAC agrees with and endorses, the AWAC has further issues with allowing pigs to be kept within the city limits:

- a) With the City already committed to achieving a No-Kill status through efforts to reduce the number of unwanted pets in London, allowing pigs in the city would add another species of pet with a high surrender rate that Animal Services would become responsible for in relation to medical treatment and re-homing of the animals. This would add to the challenge that exists in meeting the No-Kill Policy the City has endorsed;
- b) Ultimately allowing pigs in the city will increase the burden on already overburdened and underfunded animal rescue organizations and Animal Services. The pigs are typically bred when they are only three months old and this could quickly result in an overpopulation of unwanted pigs, leading to further costs to already financially burdened animal rescue organizations and sanctuaries and to the City's spay and neuter program. Additionally, it should be noted that there are not many animal rescue organizations/sanctuaries that accept pigs in this area, which could lead to more unwanted pigs being euthanized for lack of space in shelters and/or animal rescue organization facilities;
- c) Additional costs will be created for Animal Services in relation to responding to complaints, taking pigs into custody, caring for pigs while in custody, large medical bills from treating malnourished and sick pigs and a likely need for an expansion in the size of Animal Services' facilities in order to house larger animals such as pigs;
- d) The current service provider for Animal Services in the city may not be willing to take on pigs as part of their responsibilities as it is not part of their current contract. This may result in extra costs to the City in finding another service provider for dealing with this animal; and,
- e) Upon contacting all but five veterinary practices located within the city, the AWAC discovered that only three of them stated that they treat pigs. It is clear that the availability of veterinarians that treat pigs in London is inadequate at present and represents another reason why allowing pigs to be kept within the city limits is not in the best interests of the welfare of these animals. Please see attached chart for a listing of the veterinary offices that were contacted by the AWAC and their responses to our inquiries.

The AWAC does recognize that pigs are intelligent and sensitive animals that are capable of providing human companionship but the research of the AWAC, Animal Outreach and Cedar Row Sanctuary clearly shows that the difficulties and disadvantages of permitting pigs to be kept within the city limits far outweigh the benefits.