

November 10, 2016

Hoppy Hearts Rabbit Rescue
London, Ontario

Animal Welfare Advisory Committee
London, Ontario

RE: Amending Class 4 Animals To Be Included in By-Law Exemption For Recognized Rescue Organizations

Enclosed:

- 1) London, Ontario Stray Tracker by Hoppy Hearts Rescue
- 2) Denied requests for intake 2016 by Hoppy Hearts Rabbit Rescue

Dear Animal Welfare Advisory Committee:

I am writing to ask you to consider, and bring to council's attention, an exemption to the current By-Law for Class 4 Animals in the City of London for recognized Rescue Groups. As well, that current Class 4 animal rescue organizations operating in the City of London be considered to be included as recognized Rescue Groups (providing that they meet the current criteria).

Hoppy Hearts Rabbit Rescue is a registered non-profit rescue organization for domestic rabbits. We have been operating primarily in the City of London since early 2014. We take in abandoned/stray domestic rabbits, surrendered rabbits from individuals who can no longer care for their pet, and will occasionally assist other rescue organizations when they are unable to care for or place domestic rabbits (including London Animal Care and Control). When rabbits enter our care, they are vetted, neutered, and placed into a foster home until an adoptive family can be found. To the best of our knowledge, we are the only organization in London, Ontario actively neutering domestic rabbits. We also provide public education on proper rabbit care, housing, promote neutering rabbits, and hold an Easter Campaign each year that stresses the importance of not impulse purchasing rabbits and not to abandon them outdoors (this campaign also includes a halt on all of our adoptions a few weeks prior to Easter).

Currently, Hoppy Hearts Rabbit Rescue's largest struggle is finding foster homes in the City of London. The current Class 4 Animal By-Law states that only two (2) small animals are allowed per household. We feel that having a pet limit exemption for the Class 4 Animals By-Law would allow the same opportunities for small animals as it does now for dogs and cats in the City of London. This exemption would increase foster home placement for displaced rabbits and other small animals that may otherwise not have a safe location to go to.

As a newer rescue organization, we have made great strides in matching the criteria that the City of London set for recognized Rescue Groups to achieve. We are calling for an equal opportunity to have the same pet limit exemption and perks that the recognized dog and cat rescues are currently receiving.

Some of the criteria Hoppy Hearts Rabbit Rescue currently uses that is required for Recognized Rescue Groups, is as follows:

- Regulating appropriate numbers of rabbits per foster home
- Maintaining internal record of foster homes
- Displaying adoptable rabbits on a website, PetFinder, online classifieds and social media
- All rabbits are vetted and neutered prior to being moved to a foster home, taken to a public event and before they are adopted
- Rabbits with behavioral concerns or aggressive tendencies are placed only with experienced rabbit handlers, or are placed with our Board of Directors for foster placement

We feel that our services are beneficial to the City of London. As the only known organization actively neutering domestic rabbits, we are helping to prevent unwanted litters and continue to support London as a no-kill community. Rabbits are prolific breeders that are capable of reproduce once every 30-60 days, have medium to large litter sizes (6-12), have short gestation periods (30 days), and become sexually mature as soon as 12 weeks of age. As the current situation involving a colony of stray domestic rabbits in Ridgetown, Ontario becomes urgent, we cannot stress enough the importance of neutering domestic rabbits, as well as taking preventative measures to prevent this same issue from increasing in other cities. Some issues Ridgetown has faced with the 100+ stray rabbits is property damage, increased

presence of predatory species (primarily coyotes), and increased safety risk as cars swerve around rabbits casually sitting on or near the roads.

As of this year, we have also implemented our "Stray Capture Program" which is highly successful in capturing and relocating domestic rabbits to other rescue organizations (if Hoppy Hearts Rabbit Rescue has no foster home placement available). This program began as a result of members of the public reaching out to us for support when they found none from Animal Care and Control. We have been informed on multiple occasions that Animal Care and Control would intake a stray domestic rabbit, but they would not assist in the capture.

Although the numbers at Animal Care and Control may not reflect a significant number of domestic rabbits at large, our organization has been keeping numbers of our own to show that there is a need for our services, and that a pet limit exemption to the Class 4 Animal By-Law, and being accepted as a Recognized Rescue Group would be of benefit to the City of London. Enclosed with this letter is our "stray tracker" (which identifies the nearest location stray rabbits we have been notified of), as well our incoming requests for owner surrenders (that we have had to deny due to lack of placement) to share with you or current information on the number of displaced rabbits we are asked to help with.

Thank you for taking the time to review this letter addressing the Pet Limit Exemption of Class 4 Animals for recognized Rescue Groups. We hope that you will take Hoppy Hearts Rabbit Rescue into consideration so that together, we can continue to better the lives of animals in our community and support a no-kill London. Please feel welcome to visit our website for additional information on our organization.

Sincerely,



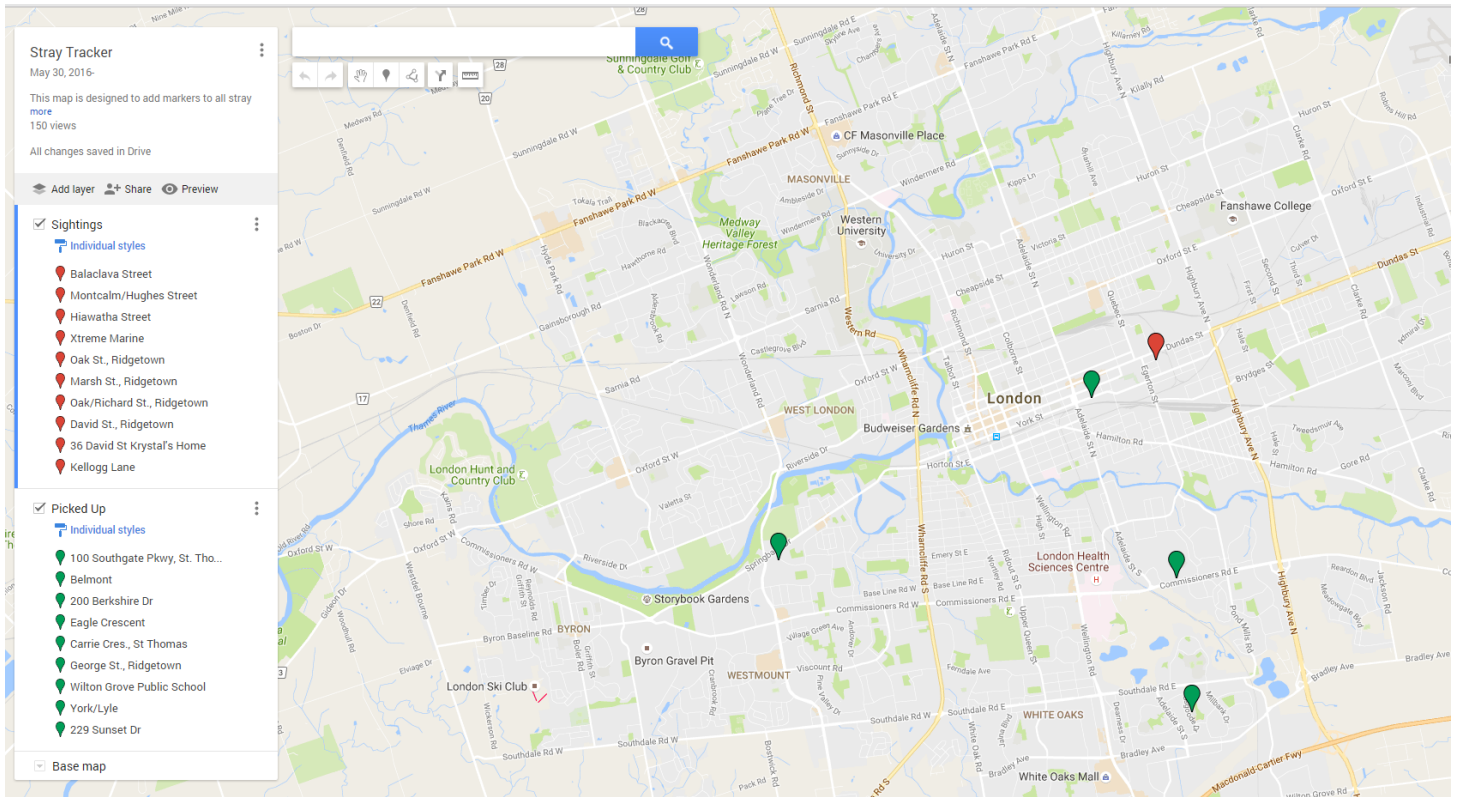
Kaylie Ngo
President
Hoppy Hearts Rabbit Rescue
www.hoppyhearts.ca

Stray Tracker for London, Ontario from June 2016 to October 2016

Note: the table to the left includes locations from other towns.

Green indicates picked up

Red indicates sightings



Denied requests for intake by Hoppy Hearts Rabbit Rescue From January 1, 2016 - November 5, 2016
 Current total: Estimated 95 rabbits

	A	B	C	D
1	Date	Name	Call/Email/Text	Notes
2	1/22/2016	johnny	Call	Surrender: 5 angora kits, approx 4m
3	1/29/2016	barbara pasqualini	Website Form	Surrender: 2 spayed females
4	TOTAL=7			
5				
6	2/2/2016	Jyoti S	E-Mail	Surrender: 1 rabbit
7	2/4/2016	shannon cabrea	Facebook Message	Surrender: 1 new zealand rabbit
8	2/4/2016		Website Form	Surrender: 1 female rabbit, head tilt
9	2/8/2016		Facebook Message	Surrender: 1 rabbit
10	TOTAL=4			
11				
12	3/2/2016		Call	Surrender: 1 rabbit, dental issues
13	3/4/2016	Heather Wells	Facebook Message	Surrender: 1 rabbit, paralysis
14	3/9/2016	Taylor Stroop	Website Form	Surrender: 1 rabbit, dental issues
15	3/15/2016	norman hall	Website Form	Surrender: 1 rabbit, potential toxicity to flea medication
16	3/15/2016	Shannon Franklin-Eby	Website Form	Surrender: 1 rabbit
17	3/22/2016	rachel vanderkloosen	Facebook Message	Wants to sell us 4 rabbits, advised we do not purchase animals
18	3/28/2016		Website Form	Surrender: 7 rabbits
19	3/29/2016	melissa lawton	Website Form	Surrender: 1 rabbit
20	TOTAL=17			
21				
22	4/10/2016	bridgette	Website Form	Surrender: 1 rabbit
23	4/22/2016	roxanne	Text Message	Surrender: 1 rabbit, growth on head
24	4/22/2016	shawna hayes	Call	Stray: 1 rabbit
25	4/22/2016	jessica	E-Mail	Surrender: 1 rabbit
26	TOTAL=4			
27				
28	5/4/2016	tony	Website Form	Surrender: 2 rabbits
29	5/4/2016	jordan	Call	Surrender: 1 rabbit
30	5/12/2016	gll burden	Website Form	Surrender: 2 rabbits
31	5/12/2016	erin	Call	Surrender: 5 newborn kits
32	5/17/2016	taylor	Reply to our Kijiji Post	Surrender: 2 rabbits
33	5/20/2016	tiffany	Website Form	Surrender: 1 rabbit
34	5/27/2016	tony wong	Website Form	Surrender: 1 rabbit
35	5/31/2016		Call	Wildlife Call
36	TOTAL=15			
37				
38	6/1/2016	Nichole Sheppard	Website Form	Surrender: 1 rabbit
39	11-Jun	andrew	Text Message	Surrender: 1 rabbit
40	14-Jun	melissq	Website Form	Surrender: 1 rabbit, dental issues
41	TOTAL=3			
42				
43	5-Jul		Text Message	Wildlife Call
44	5-Jul		Call	Wildlife Call
45	5-Jul		Call	Wildlife Call
46	25-Jul	roshini	Website Form	Surrender: 10 rabbits
47	27-Jul	st thomas ac	Facebook Message	Surrender: 5 sick kits
48	TOTAL=18			
49				
50	8-Aug	dawn hall	Website Form	Stray: 1 rabbit
51	8-Aug	Iman Zabian	E-Mail	Surrender: 1 rabbit
52	22-Aug		Facebook Message	Surrender: 1 rabbit, New Zealand
53	TOTAL=3			
54				
55	2-Sep		Facebook Message	Surrender: 1 rabbit
56	7-Sep		Website Form	Stray: 5
57	9-Sep		Facebook Message	Surrender: 1 rabbit
58	16-Sep		E-Mail	Stray: 1
59	17-Sep		Website Form	Stray: 1
60	18-Sep		Website Form	Surrender: 5 kits
61	26-Sep	ashley	Call	Surrender: 1 rabbit
62	TOTAL=15			
63				
64	7-Oct	elizabeth	Website Form	Surrender: 2 rabbits
65	17-Oct		Website Form	Surrender: 1 rabbit
66	18-Oct	jessica	Reply to our Kijiji Post	Surrender: 1 rabbit
67	TOTAL=4			
68				
69	2-Nov	lois jackson abcr	Website Form	Stray: 1 rabbit
70	5-Nov		Website Form	Stray: 1 rabbit
71				