

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING COMMENTS

11. Business Licensing By-law Review – Commercial Parking Facilities, Pet Shops, Public Halls and Seasonal Sales Businesses
- F. Morrison, 803 Waterloo Street – stating that she is a co-founder of Animal Outreach, which is a local animal rescue group and expressing support of the proposed by-law as it is one more step towards an enhanced animal care strategy; urging the committee to support the by-law.
 - V. Van Linden, 431 Ridgewood Crescent – expressing that the proposed by-law is a well thought out recommendation; stating that this recommendation follows five years of work instigated by a request from the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee related to the sale of dogs and cats and the proposal was well worth the wait; indicating that some pet shop owners may argue that they cannot be profitable without the sale of animals but there are pet shops that only sell pet food and supplies; noting that the sourcing document included in the recommendation will join London with other cities across North America in working to stop the proliferation of puppy mills; indicating that the sale of other animals (birds, rodents, small exotic animals) will be best regulated with a positive list that Civic Administration will compile; noting that it is true that animal sellers do pay business taxes and provide employment but so do the stores that do not sell animals; indicating that when animals that are sold end up homeless, it falls to rescue groups to respond; stating that this by-law will not prevent animals from being purchased online but that we can only change what we can; stating that this is a reasonable bill that will not harm any creative or responsive business.
 - J. Reed, Pet Paradise – stating that animals sold at Pet Paradise are vet checked and treated and when sold the new owners are informed of the importance of spaying/neutering; indicating that in regards to reptiles and fish, the public is afraid of owning reptiles due to the City of London's poorly written by-laws; stating that there are already provincial and federal agencies that deal with these issues and they do it with the help of experts; stating that bringing wild animals into the country legally is not the problem; noting that many pet stores operate in London that provide jobs and taxes; stating that stores that are built to sell livestock are built that way and are larger; noting that they have no problem with record-keeping or licensing as long as it is reasonable but what is being proposed is not; indicating that they have no problem working with the City to create stronger by-laws but the one that is being proposed is wrong and will do more harm than good.
 - J. Robertson – indicating that she has worked with rescue organizations to help animals and has seen a great deal of suffering; stating that most sellers of animals claim to be licensed, and they are, but the standards for obtaining a license are too low; describing the horrors of puppy mills in particular; noting that the recommendation for the by-law is a good one and indicating her support of it.
 - W. Brown, Chair, Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC) – stating that the AWAC fully supports the licensing by-law; noting that it adequately addresses more control in the hands of the City on a number of levels including health and safety; indicating that the AWAC looks forward to working with the City on this initiative.
 - Representative of Sealife Central – stating that he does not work with dogs and cats, etc. but with marine life and coral; indicating that he agrees with some of what has been said so far about puppy mills, etc. and that people who are taking wildlife from the wild need to do more research where that is concerned because that is an international problem and other countries have addressed problems related to that; noting that it has been proven that taking a species from the wild does not actually harm it; stating that putting all forms of animals/wildlife in the same category does not work; indicating that more research needs to be done with regards to the different types of animals/wildlife under the by-law.
 - R. Laidlaw, Zoocheck – stating that the idea that there are sufficient levels of controls throughout the industry is ludicrous; indicating that he thinks this business licensing by-law is very good; noting that a permitted list as a regulatory control mechanism for animals in a municipality is becoming more common for many reasons and that he thinks they are the way of the future; stating that even the Province of Ontario has starting looking at permitted lists as well; noting that he encourages the committee strongly to support it; noting that everyone would have a fair say on what is on the permitted lists and it would be evidence-based.
 - P. Mackie, Big Al's Aquarium Services – stating that they primarily deal with fish rather than dogs and cats; indicating that he is watched by border security with

- regards what kinds of fish he brings into the country; noting that in what is printed in the proposed by-law all he would be able to carry in store is captive bred species and that is detrimental as there are no new bloodlines being introduced; stating that he does not understand why fish are being grouped in with dogs and cats, etc.; indicating that bringing fish into the country is not hurting the environment, what hurts the environment is mass fishing; stating that most communities where the fish come from are third world countries and by implementing this by-law we could be devastating an entire community; noting that stores that sell fish should not be grouped in with pet stores that sell mammals and other animals because they are already exposed to a great deal of regulation.
- M. Blosch – indicating support for the by-law; stating her hope that rabbits will be included in the companion animal portion; noting that perhaps the issue of puppy mills should be dealt with at the Provincial level but that it is not being dealt with; indicating that a lot of work has gone into this by-law and that it makes a lot of sense and that she urges the committee to move forward with it.
 - M. Cote, Hoppy Hearts Rabbit Rescue - stating that he fosters rabbits through Hoppy Hearts and that he volunteers with the London Humane Society with the rabbits; noting the sale of rabbits in pet stores is not handled correctly in many cases; stating that the London Humane Society is so full of dogs and cats and the rabbits are frightened being in the same location; indicating that it is important to not allow pet stores to get rabbits from for-profit breeders.
 - W. Comber – indicating that he came to the meeting to hear both sides of the situation; noting that it seems very focused on regulations and bans on licensed pet shops; wondering if there has been any thought towards the online pet markets like kijiji etc. and whether this by-law addresses that; noting that a positive list does sound promising but a positive list without a submission process would be detrimental because some reptiles or fish may not be seen as important life forms compared to the other species on the list.
 - K. Inigo, 55 Price Street – stating that she is the founder and president of Hoppy Hearts Rabbit Rescue which is a registered non-profit rescue dedicated to helping domestic rabbits as well as providing education regarding rabbit care to the public; indicating that she is speaking to be the voice for domestic rabbits in the community; stating that she supports the recommendation that all dogs, cats and rabbits sold in licensed pet stores be sourced from animal rescue organizations and the Humane Society and that she is glad that rabbits are included in the recommendation.
 - F. Parquette – indicating that he wonders why the by-law is targeting the pet stores; stating that if selling pets in pet stores is banned people will just sell them in the media or online.