



Councillor Virginia Ridley, Ward 10

June 29, 2017

Chair and Members of the
Community and Protective Services Committee

RE: Pet Boarding and/or Pet Sitting Services

I am aware of the need in the City of London for the provision of temporary housing of dogs in circumstances where the owner will be temporarily away and require care of their animal (see Appendix A). This may include care during the day when the owner is away from the home and/or during an owner's vacation period. Due to the City of London By-law restrictions contained in the Dog Licensing and Control By-law as well as the Business Licensing By-law and Zoning By-law, individuals may be providing such services in contravention of these By-laws.

Not only is there a need for this type of services, these services also provide an opportunity for small businesses to be successfully established in the city. By amending the appropriate By-laws to permit this type of business activity, concerns that may arise could be addressed by means of the regulations contained in the By-laws.

Providing for these types of uses also aligns with the City of London's 2015-2019 Strategic Plan (see Appendix B) through the support of small business by improving city processes and enabling economic growth through innovation.

I am therefore respectfully requesting support of the following motion:

"That the Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to review and report back with respect to the necessary amendments to City of London By-laws to provide for individuals to operate a pet boarding and/or pet sitting business from their homes."

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Ridley,
Councillor Ward 10

Attached Appendix A
 Appendix B
 Additional Information



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APPENDIX A

BACKGROUND

It has recently come to my attention that individuals who engage in pet sitting for a fee in London are doing so in contravention to the Business Licensing Bylaw, which specifically references business with animals as not allowed in Home businesses. Further, it is understood that this is enforced only on a complaint basis. Many Londoners would like to hire a friend or neighbour to pet sit for them in the other person's home while away on vacation.

At present the city of London regulates the number of licensed pets that residents can legally have in their home.

It is my belief that the city should not be regulating or disallowing pet sitting as a home based business, provided that the number of animals on the property at any given time are all licensed with the City of London, and are within the approved limits.

If there are complaints regarding excessive noise, property standards etc. those can be addressed via other bylaws and through enforcement.

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APPENDIX B

ALIGNMENT WITH THE 2015-2019 STRATEGIC PLAN

The motion on the floor aligns with the third goal of Growing Our Economy, within the 2015-19 Strategic Plan for the City of London.

3. Local, regional, and global innovation		
STRATEGY		
	What are we doing?	How are we doing it?
A	Use new and emerging technology to improve quality of life and grow London's economy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smart Cities Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The London Plan (Smart City) • Fibre Optic – Last Mile Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The London Plan (Smart City) • Municipal best practices
B	Lead the development of new ways to resource recovery, energy recovery, and utility and resource optimization with our local and regional partners to keep our operating costs low and assist businesses with commercialization to help grow London's economy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnerships with Budweiser Gardens, Covent Garden Market, and London Hydro • Community Energy Action Plan • London Waste to Resources Innovation Centre • International Water Excellence Centre

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND LINKS

Animal Control By-Law

<http://www.london.ca/city-hall/by-laws/Documents/animal-control-PH3.pdf>

Dog Licensing and Control By-Law

<https://www.london.ca/city-hall/by-laws/Documents/dogsPH4.pdf>

BC-based book writer & pet-sitter (Globe & Mail)

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/facts-and-arguments/professional-pet-sitting-is-a-risky-business/article4262639/>

- Finds that pet-sitter of all home-sitter are in particular high demand
- Home based pet businesses in BC

Globe & Mail

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/small-business/startups/pet-owners-represent-65-billion-a-year-business-opportunity/article10430341/>

- Pets a huge business in Canada (about half of Canadian households have pets, \$6.5 billion spent in 2012 on pets and the number is steadily increasing)

A matter of supply and demand - lots of pets and lots of demand for home based boarding businesses

<https://www.pickering.ca/en/city-hall/homebasedbusinesses.aspx>

- Other cities do not allow pet boarding as a home based business either (City of Pickering)

Planning Committee: Application by the City of London for the Amendment to the Home Occupation Provision section 4.10 Zoning By-Law Z.1

<http://council.london.ca/councilarchives/agendas/planning%20committee%20agendas/planning%20committee%20agendas%202006/2006-04-24%20agenda/item%208.pdf>

- Hamilton and Windsor municipalities allow dog & domestic cat grooming as a home business as long as all other provisions of by-law are complied with
- Markham, Waterloo, Kitchener municipalities do not allow dog & domestic cat grooming as home businesses

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(ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND LINKS CONT'D)

6th Report of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

<http://council.london.ca/councilarchives/agendas/community%20and%20neighbourhoods/cnc%20agendas%202011/2011-07-19%20agenda/the%20community%20and%20neighbourhoods%20agenda%20items%2016-30.pdf>

(proof of demand for boarding/pet sitting services)

- Of all products/services purchased for dogs, 19% is for boarding/pet sitting services (the 4th highest on the list)... for cats it is also the 4th highest on the list
- More is spend of pet budget on boarding than on training, clothing, dog walking, day care and cleaning services (see graph on page 217 of 315 for numbers)

Interim Report - Animal Control Contract & Services Review

August 15, 2005

<http://council.london.ca/councilarchives/agendas/environment%20and%20transportation%20committee%20agendas/etc%20agendas%202005/2005-08-22%20agenda/item%2021.pdf>

- Recommended a volunteer program that will take care of grooming, pet walking, foster care, etc to improve chances of a new home [a lot of the services home businesses would provide]

6th Report of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee [info pulled from report in Background section]

June 28, 2011

<http://council.london.ca/councilarchives/agendas/community%20and%20neighbourhoods/cnc%20agendas%202011/2011-07-19%20agenda/the%20community%20and%20neighbourhoods%20agenda%20items%2016-30.pdf>

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By-law Amendments for Expanded Animal Welfare Initiatives

May 26, 2014

- Public survey conducted in regards to proposed pet limits [see July 21st report below]
- 6% wanted no limit on pets
- Other municipalities also have limits (particularly on dogs)... 8 out of 10 surveyed municipalities have a limit of 3 dogs/household
- More regulatory protocol on dogs than cats because they pose greater public safety risk and create more noise/nuisance complaints than cats
- Reasons against limit: may deter individuals from adopting,
- Pros of pet limit: less stress on shelters, less loss of enjoyment of property rights, less unsanitary conditions in high-density residential areas
- Recommended to reduce licensing fees for seniors

By-law Amendments for Expanded Animal Welfare Initiatives

July 21st, 2014

- City's first principle of "no kill" and open shelter policy...report proposes:
 1. Change pet limit for cats (from 2 cats/adult person) and for dogs (from 3 dogs/dwelling unit)
 2. By-law wording change from "guardian" & "guardianship" to "owner" & "ownership"
- Regulate limit of pets due to nuisance complaints, particularly noise in more than one dwelling unit per parcel of land (semis, duplexes, apartments, etc.)
- No changes for single detached dwellings since nuisance factors better controlled
- For all other dwellings, recommended change for cats & dogs: 3 of any combination (same limit for fostering in multiple unit buildings)
- Change in fostering in single detached dwellings: up to 10 cats and dogs, with a max limit of 4 dogs at any time

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(ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND LINKS CONT'D)

Amendment to Animal Control By-law PH-3 and Amendment to Dog Licensing and Control By-Law PH-4
November 3, 2014

- Replaced phrase “dwelling or on any premises that contains more than one unit” with “dwelling unit on any premises that contains more than one dwelling unit”.

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