

2ND REPORT OF THE
ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting held on February 1, 2018, commencing at 5:00 PM, in Committee Room #4, Second Floor, London City Hall.

PRESENT: D. Simpson (Acting Chair), H. de Hoog, M. Gelinas, A. Hayes and P. Lystar and J. Bunn (Acting Secretary).

ABSENT: K. Ashe, W. Brown, E. Nicholas and M. Toplack.

ALSO PRESENT: R. Oke.

I. CALL TO ORDER

1. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest

That it BE NOTED that no pecuniary interests were disclosed.

II. SCHEDULED ITEMS

2. Permitted Animal List for Pet Store Sales and New Regulations

That it BE NOTED that the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee heard a verbal delegation from J. Reid, Pet Paradise and received the attached notes with respect to the proposed permitted animal list for pet store sales and new regulations.

3. Beaver Lodge Destruction

That the scheduled delegation from J. MacKay, Ecologist, with respect to beaver lodge destruction, BE DEFERRED to the next meeting of the Animal Welfare and Advisory Committee.

III. CONSENT ITEMS

4. 1st Report of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

That it BE NOTED that the 1st Report of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, from its meeting held on January 4, 2018, was received.

IV. SUB-COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS

None.

V. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

5. Dog Influenza – Preventative Measures

That the communication from K. Ashe, with respect to dog influenza and preventative measures related to it, BE DEFERRED to the next meeting of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee.

6. Emergency Veterinary Clinics

That it BE NOTED that the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC) held a general discussion related to emergency veterinary clinics in London and the lack of veterinary services for small companion animals; it being noted that the AWAC heard a verbal delegation from N. Lavery, a citizen of London who works at an emergency veterinary clinic, with respect to this matter.

7. Animal Control By-law (PH-3) – Update

That it BE NOTED that the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee heard a verbal update from R. Oke, Animal Control and Welfare Coordinator, related to the Animal Control By-law (PH-3).

VI. DEFERRED MATTERS/ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

8. (ADDED) Wildlife and Companion Animal Sub-Committee Report

That the Wildlife and Companion Animal Sub-Committee Report BE DEFERRED to the next meeting of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:34 PM.

NEXT MEETING DATE: March 1, 2018

Concerning the permitted list.

Fish

This is one of the most worrisome of the by laws currently being created especially of the goal is to preserve wild life.

Project Piaba

- Massive Sustainable Fishing Initiative
- Exports over 40 million ornamental fish a year out of south america
- Fish are collected from various rivers that vanish during the dry season killing millions of fish per year, certain rivers are also closed off from collection during certain seasons
- You have to also take into account that the majority of fish in captivity would be lucky to reach the first year of their life in the wild if they even have a chance to hatch
- There slogan is "buy a fish, save a tree" the less income there is coming from the fish trade the more people will turn devastating the forest for income, which is already a massive problem as is
- The primary threat for wild fish is not the collection of them especially when done properly and in a sustainable matter

Reptiles

- What is considered a wild animal
- Different Terms Captive Bred, Captive Hatched, Farmed, and Wild
- Certain countries only deal with farmed animals such as Nicaragua
- There are two primary organization that have a big impact on what animals we are able to bring in from other countries.
- IUCN is responsible for deciding what species are threatened
- CITES is responsible for assuring that the trade of endangered wild life does threaten the species this includes all animals from reptiles to fish as well as plants
- We also have to keep in mind that that if we do not introduce new blood lines every few generation we will begin to see deformed animals as well as neurological problems.
- We have customers that have certain species that are lizard or frog eaters that are only readily available wild caught.
- For both fish & reptiles
- Main threat include dams such as the Belo Monte in Brazil. Clear cutting of tropical forest. A various toxic spill from oil to mining dam reservoir.
- A couple years ago a joint mining operation between Brazil and Australia has dam burst containing a large amount of mining waste from an iron mine, which reached all the way to the Atlantic
- These are the main threats to wild life
- The number of collection for the trade is minuscule in comparison to human related accidents wiping out an entire habitat
- Another point worth mentioning if the concern is our own environment from species being released then there should be a bylaw restricting people from having out door cats as they are the single most invasive and destructive species in the world under humans

Amphibians

- It doesn't make any sense to make a municipal law on a topic that has recently had a federal banned
- It was decided that the main threat in regards to the fungus and virus mentioned are salamanders & newts
- Does not survive above 25C or below 5C
- Water born pathogen
- Will be brought in from captive bred fish, food fish, or anything that has come into contact with water
- So if the bylaw is being made to reduce the risk of the fungus coming into the country it won't even make a dent
- It has already been in Canada for a long time if it was going to effect our native population it would have already happened, but it can not thrive in our climate

Our current by laws in regards to reptile nearly are already extremely poor nearly ban every species sold when it reaches adult hood.

- 99% of snakes and even including garter snakes will exceed 2 feet
- Bearded dragon which are among the most common pet lizard will break the current by law
- There are lizards that are 3inches long with tails 10-12 inches
- And then even some small geckos that do better in groups can't be kept properly do to the bylaw limiting the amount you can have which is 2.
- Yet we let people have 8 cats so long as they are fixed
- Even with all that, we add more and more bylaws which are unenforceable
- Who that works for the city can possibly identify a wild caught animal from something captive bred
- What would happen of if all of a sudden these by laws actually start getting enforced
- London has a massive reptile hobbyist population
- Where would the animals go? Would a facility be built to house it all? Where would the funding come from?
- Or would we euthanize thousand of animals, that on its on would cost a fortune not to mention cause a PR nightmare for the city
- Our old by laws primarily regarding reptiles were created during a time period when many people disliked those animals, and the by laws reflected that allowing people to own nearly nothing, fast forward nearly some 20 years the by laws were untouched and every reptile owner in the city is breaking the bylaws today in a society were reptiles are more accepted as pets along side cats & dogs
- These by laws should have been improved to benefit both the animals as well as the owners of these animals
- The by-laws were needing to be changed but not in this manner
- I think this is in part due to more people within the city having concerns regarding cats, dogs and other small animals, not so much reptiles, amphibians and arachnids
- I believe more people would speak out about their concerns regarding these other animals if it wasn't for the fear of drawing attention to themselves and the animals they already own
- I think it would be beneficial to have someone on the committee that was involved with one of the pet stores within the city as well as someone who has knowledge reptiles, fish, amphibians and arachnids.