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Public Health & Safety:

Exotic animals which are often featured as part of a Mobile Live Animal Program headline, harbour diseases that can be spread to humans. The Ontario Ministry of Health & Long Term Care recommends children under the age of five should not visit facilities with Exotic animals. Aside from the risk of disease, there are also risks of personal injury due to bites (with or without poisonous venom), claws and constriction from large snakes. There is no oversight nor standards set by the province regarding health and safety practices or permits requiring regular inspection leaving the burden of managing any health and safety related issues entirely at the municipal level.

Animal Welfare:

Many animals are subjected to conditions where their biological, behavioural and social needs are not met. All animals require space to engage in normal movements and behaviours, appropriate environmental conditions. For most Mobile Live animal Programs, these exotic species are transported from the time they leave their home base until return in extremely minimalist conditions. Mammals and birds may be confined and moved in cages or crates while reptiles and amphibians are routinely moved in plastic tubs and containers, often so with so little space that they are unable to move normally or even turn around. Additionally they are subjected to environmental concerns; vibrations, sounds, light or lack thereof, during the transportation process and while at a venue. Most exotic animals die long before reaching what would be considered a natural lifespan. More than 75% of reptiles die within 24 months of being purchased.

Enforcement/Resources:

As there is no current oversight, anyone (yourself or myself even) could open and operate a mobile live animal program using class seven animals within the city under the present by-law exemptions. Municipal staff do not have the expertise or capacity to provide oversight to the issues that come with the keeping of exotic wild animals or husbandry. After careful study and deliberation, the Animal Welfare Advisory committee asks that you support this important by-law amendment recommendation with the knowledge that it only applies to species the city has already deemed dangerous for health or safety reasons and business are still welcome to come with animals who are allowed in London