

### 3RD REPORT OF THE

### ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting held on October 4, 2012 commencing at 4:05 p.m.

PRESENT: B. Saylor (Chair), B. Barr, D. Fortney, E. Gerrow, L. Jackson, J. McFadden, A. Pappmehl, M. Puzanov, S. C. Rans, M. Shepherd-Ennis, V. VanLinden and J. Martin, Secretary.

ALSO PRESENT: A. Quin and R. Oke.

REGRETS: W. Mackay, G. Strum and M. Warder.

#### **I YOUR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS**

2nd Report of the  
AWAC

1. (1) That the following amendments be made with respect to the 2nd Report of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC):

(a) part (a) of clause 2 **BE REPLACED** with the following new part (a):

(a) "The Corporation of the City of London **BE REQUESTED** to discontinue the use of the term owner and alternatively use the term owner/guardian in all references and in all documents referring to people and their pets, with the intent to transition to discontinue the use of the term owner/guardian and alternatively use the term guardian in all references and in all documents referring to people and their pets"; and,

(b) parts (a) and (b) of clause 3 **BE REPLACED** with the following new parts (a) and (b):

(a) "the Mayor **BE REQUESTED** to write a letter expressing concern with respect to the two seals, known as Larry and Baby, that were born in London's Storybook Gardens, and who were transferred to Marineland, Niagara Falls, Ontario, in 2004 and to request these seals be re-homed to other facilities;

(b) the Civic Administration **BE REQUESTED** to prepare a timeline with respect to the provision of grassed grazing areas for the domestic animals at Storybook Gardens;

it being noted that the AWAC heard a verbal update from J. Riddell, Manager, Storybook Gardens with respect to the remaining captive domestic animals housed at Storybook Gardens; it being further noted that the AWAC provided the attached, additional information with respect to this matter.

Wildlife Sub-  
committee

2. (C) That the following actions be taken with respect to the Wildlife Sub-committee Report:

(a) the committee Agendas and Reports from the Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee, Planning and Environment Committee and Public Safety Committee **BE PROVIDED** to the AWAC, where there are items related to Wildlife;

(b) subject to a) above, the AWAC Chair **BE DIRECTED** to seek delegation status at applicable meetings where wildlife matters are reviewed, to ensure the involvement of the AWAC; and,

(c) the Chair **BE DIRECTED** to send a letter of thanks to B. Salt, on behalf of the AWAC, in recognition of his work related to the rescue of a deer from a construction site in September;

it being noted that the AWAC received the sub-committee report, from its meeting held October 4, 2012.

- Ear Tipping 3. (6) That Civic Administration **BE REQUESTED** to work with the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee to develop a protocol to discontinue the practice of ear tipping to identify feral cats that have been determined adoptable by the City of London recognized rescue groups.
- Foie Gras Ban 4. (7) That Civic Administration **BE REQUESTED** to establish a by-law to ban the sale of Foie Gras.

## II YOUR COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Living with Wildlife Conference 5. That the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC) received a verbal presentation from E. Gerrow with respect to the Living With Wildlife Conference. The AWAC requested its Chair to invite B. Gates, Triple A Wildlife Control, to a future meeting to make a presentation with respect to Wildlife Control; it being noted that local pest control companies and Civic Administration will be invited to the presentation.
- RedRover Responders Workshop 6. (3) That the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC) received a verbal update from B. Saylor with respect to the RedRover Responders Workshop; it being noted that the AWAC will work with RedRover Responders to organize a workshop to be held in January 2013.
- National Feral Cat Day 7. (4) That the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC) held a general discussion with respect to the National Feral Cat Day; it being noted the following actions be taken with respect to promoting this program:
- (a) R. Oke was requested to provide promotional posters to all London and area veterinarian offices;
  - (b) the AWAC will promote National Feral Cat Day Adoption Day being held at City Plaza, October 12, 2012; and,
  - (c) the AWAC will investigate additional promotional opportunities for the 2013 event.
- Deferred Matters 8. That the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC) deferred consideration of the following items to a future AWAC meeting:
- (a) (2) discussion with respect to the Animal Control By-law - Limitation of Pets Per Household; it being noted that the committee members are requested to review the report and provide comments to V. VanLinden for the next meeting; and,
  - (b) (5) discussion with respect to the Animal Control By-law – Ban of Retail Outlet Sale of Companion Animals;
- Next Meeting 9. That the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee will hold its next meeting on November 1 at 4:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

**RE: Concerns about seals born at Storybook Gardens and now living at Marineland, Ontario**  
**Improved housing for domestic animals still living at Storybook Gardens**

**Captive Animals**

- Two Harbour seals known as Baby and Larry that are now living at Marineland, Niagara Falls, Ontario, were born at Storybook Gardens and were transferred to that troubled facility due to over-crowding in the Storybook Gardens pool.
- Recently, there have been serious allegations of animals suffering due to poor care and improper housing at this privately owned facility, as reported extensively in the Toronto Star.
- The seal named Larry is reported to be suffering from a painful eye condition caused by poor water quality and is reported to be blind due to this inappropriate housing. His eye condition is reported to be painful, as reported by former Marineland trainer, Phil Demers.
- Our concern is that London has failed these seals twice: first by allowing over-breeding to have taken place resulting in the need to re-home animals; and secondly by allowing these animals to be sent to a place that has long had a very poor reputation for animal-care. Baby and Larry's unhappy circumstances are a result of former actions and policies of our city; therefore, it seems appropriate for our city to attempt to find a way to intervene on their behalf.
- We recommend that a letter be sent asking that Baby and Larry be surrendered to other facilities. We hope that an intervention can be found that would relieve the suffering of these animals that were bred here in our municipally owned zoo.

**Grazing Areas for Domestic Animals**

- The donkeys, goats, and sheep that live at Storybook Gardens have not had the ability to satisfy their basic need to stand on natural substrates such as grass or dirt, and to graze on grass for several years.
- These activities are essential to their well-being in many ways. That grazing animals should be allowed to graze is an essential welfare need.
- These domestic animals stand on cement, or cement covered by rubber matting. These substrates do not in any way substitute for natural grass and dirt.
- Grazing and standing on grass, and pawing in dirt provide the only natural activities that are available to them, and their need to engage in these activities is deeply rooted in their essential natures. The health of their hooves, legs, and their emotional well-being are greatly affected by being able to engage in these natural activities.
- Happily, the only accommodation that is needed to provide these animals these basic needs is to erect fencing and gates so that these animals can move from their barn and outdoor pens onto natural ground and grass.
- Though there is some expense to this addition, it would be relatively small and constitutes a real investment in the ongoing keeping of domestic animals at this children's park, something that city representatives have indicated that they wish to do.