

**From:** Lindy Lystar

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 11, 2018 11:39 PM

**To:** Saunders, Cathy <[csaunder@london.ca](mailto:csaunder@london.ca)>; Bunn, Jerri-Joanne <[jbunn@London.ca](mailto:jbunn@London.ca)>

**Subject:** Reptilia - Letter for council a December 18th

Dear Councillors,

I am writing to express the distaste that I have over this "zoo" known as Reptilia the city is considering allowing into the city.

I am a registered veterinary technician in the city and have extreme concerns regarding the welfare and treatment of these animals. I have visited the Vaughn location and the animals, in my professional opinion are not being treated as they should. They are in small enclosed spaces, with little to no enrichment. For example, snakes are contained in small glass aquariums that are not big enough for them to stretch out their bodies to full capacity.

I pride myself in working and living in a community that has core values when it comes to rescue animals. If these were dogs, cats or rabbits, we would not allow a business to "set up shop" and begin their breeding program in the mall. It simply wouldn't work. These however, are not small fluffy animals, they are large, dangerous reptiles that carry an abundance of zoonotic diseases that can easily be transmitted (Salmonella, Mycobacterium, Campylobacter, Aeromonas, Escherichia coli, Klebsiella, Serratia and Flavobacterium meningosepticum). These infections do not make the animals appear sick, however; can cause extreme illnesses to humans.

I am not sure if you are aware or not, but Reptilia has reptiles for sale as well, most of these do not fall into city by laws. They call it their adoption program. I think is is a disgusting way for them to make money. Reptiles do not make good pets for everyone and people will visit the store and need to bring one home. These will end up needing rescue or dying in the years to come because the majority of people can not adequately home one. They require a lot of attention. Where will these reptiles be coming from? Their breeding program of course.

So to me, this is not about enrichment or education. It is clearly a way for a company to make money exploiting reptiles and amphibians. Our pet stores now are not allowed to sell dogs and cats, so why are these any different? This "zoo" is very disappointing and unacceptable to me. I do not think it will enrich anyone. I really hope this does not happen.

Could you please include this into the minutes of the agenda?

Regards,  
Lindy Lystar, RVT