

April 1, 2021

To: The Chair and Members of Community and Protective Services Committee

Re: By-law PH-3 - "A by-law to provide for the regulation, restriction and prohibition of the keeping of animals in the City of London".

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

At the July 21, 2014 meeting of CPSC, committee members received a report from Civic Administration with the following recommendation:

"Civic Administration is recommending by-law amendments previously presented to CPSC on May 26, 2014 to promote rescue associated fostering of cats and dogs which would propose to allow fosterers to temporarily house up to ten cats and dogs, with a maximum limit of four dogs at any one time. In keeping with the differentiation of residential structure types, the limit of fostering in multiple unit buildings will be limited to a combination of three cats and dogs. Civic Administration does not recommend unlimited numbers/animals in foster houses due to anticipated nuisance issues. Civic Administration believes that the recommendations represent a reasonable balance of limits of companion animals in residential settings and citizens' rights to reasonable enjoyment of property and quality of life."

The full 2014 staff report can be read here:

<https://pub-london.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=14510>

Committee Members at the time did not accept the staff recommendation and instead recommended to City Council that there should be no limit on the number of animals housed at a rescue/foster operation situated in a private residence. City Council of the day endorsed the recommendation from committee and, consequently, the bylaw currently has no limit on the number of animals allowed regardless of the dwelling type.

On January 17, 2020, a fire occurred at a duplex in London. The fire was in the half of the building which housed a large animal foster operation. Some media reports stated there were up to 40 cats housed in the residence at the time. Firefighters located and rescued 25 cats and 3 dogs while 4 cats are known to have perished.

Given that this animal foster home was operating from a multi-unit residential building, the rationale behind the original staff recommendation becomes apparent. The operation was properly approved by the City of London under the current bylaw. There is therefore very little recourse for neighbours who are negatively affected by the odours and noises that come with such a large collection of animals living under the same roof.

For the reasons of animal safety and the quality of life of residents living in adjacent residences, I, therefore, respectfully request the Corporate Services Committee to consider the following motion:

That Civic Administration report back with a draft bylaw which would allow fosterers to temporarily house up to ten cats and dogs, with a maximum limit of four dogs at any one time. The limit of fostering in multiple unit buildings will be limited to a combination of three cats and dogs as per the original staff recommendation from 2014.

Respectfully Submitted

Maureen Cassidy
Councillor, Ward 5