

**From:** Joris Van-Daele  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 27, 2022 7:56 PM  
**To:** CPSC <cpsc@london.ca>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Letter for meeting regarding Reptilia

Mr./Ms clerk for CPSC

Please add this letter to the submissions regarding the discussion at CPSC regarding Reptilia. Also, please add me the list of presenters for the Tuesday 29th March meeting.

Thank you very much,  
Joris Van Daele  
745 Rowntree Avenue  
London N6C 2L9,

Letter to CPSC:

Why would London allow a zoo, reptile or not, in our city? Hasn't this already been rejected by city council? I am a former chair of the London Humane Society, and a former director of the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, who acted on the committee updating provincial standards defining animals in distress\*, and I strongly condemn zoos. Why?

First, habitat: zoos can be sources of significant animal distress because the seemingly natural surroundings which zoos often present don't replace the normal habitats of the animals they imprison. Imagine life in a plexiglass case.

Next, human/animal interactions: zoos allow activities that cause animal distress and can be unsafe for visitors (such as patting, feeding). This is true even for members of the [World Association of Zoos and Aquariums](#), the global umbrella organization for zoos and for zoos accredited by national zoo associations. CITATION Of the 1,200 zoos surveyed, 75% of them offer at least one activity where visitors can have direct contact with live, captive wild animals. This contravenes their own guidelines. New research from the global charity [World Animal Protection](#) and the Change for Animals Foundation shows that “wild animals are abused and forced to do unnatural activities like being touched and coerced into performance at what are supposed to be some of the world's 'top' zoos, including in Canada.”

As well, reptile zoos pose other dangers to the public. Aside from toxic bites and other physical injuries, The American Center for Disease Control states that “it’s important to be aware that they (reptiles) sometimes carry germs that can make people sick. Young children, people with weakening immune systems and adults 65 and older are at higher risk of getting sick from germs carried by reptiles and amphibians.” PetMD.com elaborates, stating that “potential illnesses reptiles may inadvertently transmit to humans include botulism, Campylobacteriosis, Leptospirosis; worms and ticks can sometimes be passed from reptile to human, too.”

My experience with the London and Ontario Humane Societies/OSPICA confirms that zoos are profit making enterprises first. They ignore animal suffering. With threats of injury, issues around cruelty, track records of poor adherence to their own standards, and potential health risks, why would

London make an exception to their bylaws and allow a zoo of any kind into our city?

\*Part of Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.36., repealed 1 Jan 2020.

Yours sincerely  
Joris Van Daele