

Chair and Members
Community and Protective Services Committee
London City Hall
300 Dufferin Street
London, ON, N6B 1Z2
cpsc@london.ca

Re: January 31, 2023 Meeting; Item: Staff Report Exotic Animal Establishments

January 27, 2023

We are aware that the City of London's Community and Protective Services Committee (CPSC) is considering a staff report on the possibility of an exemption to the city's exotic animal by-law. The Ontario SPCA strongly supports upholding the existing by-law and not allowing an exemption.

The staff report, *Exotic Animal Establishments* identifies a number of issues that would need to be addressed if an exemption is issued to allow the keeping of Class 7 animals in the City of London. The simplest and most effective way to address these issues is to simply not allow an exemption at all.

Establishing a regulatory framework to address the safe keeping, use, and transport of Class 7 reptiles while ensuring that public health and safety and animal welfare are maintained will not be easy. If an exemption is granted it will require significant municipal resources, including taxpayer money and the time of staff and elected officials. The regulatory requirements and oversight necessary are strong evidence to support why exemptions of this kind are not straightforward or reasonable. Following the previous decision of London City Council, and continuing the status quo, would be the most effective way to ensure public safety and protect the welfare of animals.

I strongly urge you to simply uphold the existing By-Law and not allow an exemption for the keeping of Class 7 animals in this case.

Sincerely,



Doug Brooks
President and Chief Executive Officer,
Ontario SPCA and Humane Society