

**From:** irene denver

**Sent:** Friday, February 10, 2023 9:35 PM

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**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] !!!!!!! Exotic Animal Establishments- Bylaw amendments – for Feb 14, 2023 Council meeting agenda. !!!!!!!

I am writing in response to the up and coming agenda item for the February 14<sup>th</sup> council meeting re: the Exotic Animal Bylaw amendment to accommodate the establishment of the Reptilia Zoo at

My shock, that such a change in this enlightened day and age is even being considered, has galvanised me to address this issue.

1. **Animal control bylaws exist to protect** human safety, animal welfare, to prevent nuisance issues and other reasons. Providing an exemption so one business can keep prohibited Class 7 animals simply because they feel those animals might help their business undermines the intent of the bylaw.
2. **The risk to human safety are enhanced** when dangerous Class 7 animals are allowed in the City, especially when venomous snakes are kept for which snakebite treatment is not available. If dangerous animals are not in the City, there is no risk.
3. **Reptiles**, including those species currently prohibited, are complex, active, intelligent, long-lived, often social animals that **need lots of space and specialized conditions. Many of those needs are difficult or impossible to satisfy in a shopping mall zoo.**
4. Reptilia does not need a total exemption to operate their shopping mall zoo. Should London City Council choose to give them an exemption it should not include Class 7 prohibited animals.
5. Providing an exemption and creating a licensing scheme for exotic animal establishments **may pave the way for other exotic animal businesses** to locate or conduct their activities in London.
6. **City staff do not have the expertise** to properly assess reptile and exotic animal husbandry, health, welfare and safety conditions or the capacity to keep track of dozens or hundreds of offsite mobile live animal programs.
7. **Using exotic animals in commercial activities may promote exotic pet trade** and keeping, a practice that can lead to environmental, conservation and animal welfare impacts.
8. **Ontario does not regulate exotic animal establishments** and has only a limited ability under the Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act to address problems. Most issues associated with exotic animals are the responsibility of the City and dealing with them may be time consuming and costly.

9. **No compelling case**, data or evidence has been presented that small private, exotic animal establishments can be **tourist attractions that generate meaningful economic benefits to the City.**

I sincerely hope that these points are considered by you and that you know in your heart that animals should not be kept in servitude for financial gain.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email

yours sincerely

Irene Denver

“The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.