

April 14, 2010

Howard Moscoe, Chair
Licensing and Standards Committee
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
10th floor, West Tower
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Committee Members:

The purpose of this letter is to introduce you to the work of Earth Rangers and our position on the Toronto Municipal By-law concerning Animals (Chapter 349).

About Earth Rangers

Earth Rangers is Canada's only non-profit organization focused on communicating a positive, science-based message to children on the importance of protecting biodiversity, and inspiring them to adopt sustainable behaviours and protect endangered animals and habitats.

Earth Rangers operates the following programs:

Earth Rangers Outreach Shows

Using the power of live animals to connect with children, Earth Rangers operates free live shows that educate our audiences about endangered species and the need to protect their habitat.

Earth Rangers show program has been in operation since 2001.

Our shows are delivered at schools and community events across Ontario and at our permanent theatre at the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM).



In 2009, we reached over 300,000 children, making us Canada's largest children's environmental outreach organization. ***Nearly half of our free shows are delivered in Toronto every year.***

Toronto Municipal By-Law Concerning Animals (Chapter 349)

- The by-law, as it is written, limits our ability to use our Animal Ambassadors in our live shows in the City of Toronto.
- Section 3 of the by-law does contain some exceptions for organizations that **deliver educational programs**. It must be noted that **all of our programs are educational**. However, this exception applies to organizations that are accredited by the Canadian Association of Zoos and Aquariums (CAZA). Earth Rangers is not eligible for CAZA accreditation because we are not a zoo or aquarium open to the public. **It must be noted too that our animal care policies either meet or exceed those established by CAZA.**
- In our last correspondence with Toronto Animal Services we were told that a blanket exemption could not be granted and that there needs to be an individual exemption request per event in the City. Obviously this is very impractical as our shows are delivered in hundreds of places in Toronto every year.
- The Toronto Wildlife Centre has an exemption to this by-law.

Earth Rangers has an established reputation across Toronto and we are keen to continue delivering our free education shows to children in the city. To this end, Earth Rangers is requesting an exemption to Chapter 349 so that we can continue educating and inspiring children to take real, meaningful action to protect animals and their habitat.

This issue of critical importance as Earth Rangers is developing a new show for the 2010 school year which will feature exotic animals, and without the exemption, these shows will have to be cancelled.

Should you have any questions concerning Earth Rangers or this submission, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Puneet Luthra
Associate Director
Government Relations