

## Licensing and Standards Committee

(Deferred by City Council from June 14 and 15, 2011)

LS4.3	Action			Ward: All
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### Banning the Sale of Cats and Dogs in Pet Shops

*Public Notice Given*

**Confidential Attachment - The receiving of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege**

### Committee Recommendations

The Licensing and Standards Committee recommends that:

1. City Council amend Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 545, Licensing, Article XX, Pet Shops as per Appendix A of the report (May 13, 2011), from the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards with the following additions:
  - a. Section 545-256 (C). Every keeper shall provide the purchaser of a cat or dog, the business name and address information concerning dogs and cats to be kept in the register as outlined in 545-256 (a). Every keeper shall post, in a conspicuous place a notice provided by Municipal Licensing and Standards Division, advising customers of the required content of the register.
  - b. City Council require that pet stores provide monthly health assessment reports from a licensed vet (unless the cat or dog is held less than a month) on cats and dogs kept in the store and to keep records on all cats and dogs that receive vet care.
  - c. City Council require pet stores to buy cats and dogs from reputable breeders certified by the City of Toronto (including registered Humane Society, registered shelter or rescue group, municipal animal shelter) and provide proof of where the animals were purchased.

2. City Council request that the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards work with the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA) Investigation Unit on a continual basis to determine if any information exists related to the existence of puppy and kitten mills in Toronto; whether any City of Toronto pet shops are obtaining these dog and cats supplies from mills; and that staff take the appropriate enforcement action if these issues are uncovered.
3. City Council request that the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards take appropriate action, up to and including a report to the Licensing Tribunal recommending license revocation, if pet stores are found to purchase animals from puppy mills.
4. City Council request that the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards encourage residents to report the knowledge of any operating puppy / kitty mills in Toronto and that if the violations are substantiated, appropriate enforcement action be taken and maximum fines be requested.
5. City Council request that the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards investigate sales of dogs and cats through home-based operations; including potential zoning and licensing infractions.

## **Origin**

(May 13, 2011) Report from the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards

## **Summary**

The purpose of this report is to examine whether banning the sale of cats and dogs in pet shops and other retail outlets is an appropriate way to deal with concerns that members of the public submitted to the Licensing and Standards Committee. The submissions proposed this ban in order to address the number of unwanted pets, impulse purchases of cats and dogs in pet stores, the supply and demand for dogs from puppy mills, the overpopulation of feral cats as well as the concerns about the care and treatment of cats and dogs kept in pet stores for sale.

Municipal Licensing and Standards recommends amendments to Article XX, Pet Shops of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 545, Licensing to clarify requirements for pet shop keepers. In addition, MLS will ensure that establishments are regularly inspected for compliance. MLS does not recommend an outright ban on the sale of cats and/or dogs, which could have a significant negative economic impact on pet shop owners.

The City Solicitor was consulted in the preparation of this report.

## **Background Information (Committee)**

(May 13, 2011) Staff Report from the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards on the Banning the Sale of Cats and Dogs in Pet Shops

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2011/ls/bgrd/backgroundfile-38291.pdf>)

## **Background Information (City Council)**

(June 14, 2011) Supplementary report from the City Solicitor on a proposed amendment to Chapter 545 on banning the sale of cats and dogs in pet stores (LS4.3a)

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2011/cc/bgrd/backgroundfile-39326.pdf>)

(June 10, 2011) Confidential Attachment 1 to the report from the City Solicitor

## **Communications (Committee)**

(May 26, 2011) E-mail from Romani Bays (LS.New.LS4.3.1)

(May 26, 2011) E-mail from Paul Fortin (LS.New.LS4.3.2)

(May 26, 2011) E-mail from Tita Zierer (LS.New.LS4.3.3)

(May 26, 2011) Letter from DVM Jeff Rabinovitch, Bridletowne Warden Animal Hospital (LS.New.LS4.3.4)

(May 27, 2011) E-mail from Peter Clarke (LS.New.LS4.3.5)

(May 27, 2011) E-mail from Diane Balcerczyk (LS.New.LS4.3.6)

(May 27, 2011) E-mail from Lynda C. Nanders (LS.New.LS4.3.7)

(May 27, 2011) E-mail from Actions Speak Louder (Calgary) (LS.New.LS4.3.8)

(May 28, 2011) E-mail from Jennifer Kaiser (LS.New.LS4.3.9)

(May 28, 2011) E-mail from Morley Shayuk (LS.New.LS4.3.10)

(May 28, 2011) E-mail from Anne Griffin (LS.New.LS4.3.11)

(May 28, 2011) E-mail from Ashley Saunders (LS.New.LS4.3.12)

(May 28, 2011) E-mail from Deanna Bliuvas (LS.New.LS4.3.13)

(May 28, 2011) E-mail from Karen-Anne Levo and Robert Love (LS.New.LS4.3.14)

(May 28, 2011) E-mail from Beatrice Weber (LS.New.LS4.3.15)

(May 28, 2011) E-mail from Janice ter Borg (LS.New.LS4.3.16)

(May 28, 2011) E-mail from Ada (LS.New.LS4.3.17)

(May 28, 2011) E-mail from Kathie Corrigan (LS.New.LS4.3.18)

(May 28, 2011) E-mail from Barbara L. Macdonald (LS.New.LS4.3.19)

(May 28, 2011) E-mail from Sinem Ketenci and Kyle Sabo (LS.New.LS4.3.20)

(May 28, 2011) E-mail from Lisa Wursta (LS.New.LS4.3.21)

(May 29, 2011) E-mail from Diane Cartwright (LS.New.LS4.3.22)

(May 29, 2011) E-mail from Beth Gaskins (LS.New.LS4.3.23)

(May 29, 2011) E-mail from Elysa Graci (LS.New.LS4.3.24)

(May 29, 2011) E-mail from Lucy Kovaliv (LS.New.LS4.3.25)

(May 29, 2011) E-mail from Marie-Lynn Hammond (LS.New.LS4.3.26)

(May 30, 2011) E-mail from Nikki Strumenik (LS.New.LS4.3.27)

(May 30, 2011) E-mail from Annmarie (LS.New.LS4.3.28)

(August 10, 2010) Letter from Kerry Vinson, Animal Behaviour Consultants (LS.New.LS4.3.29)

(May 30, 2011) E-mail from Heidi Welker (LS.New.LS4.3.30)

(May 30, 2011) E-mail from Jamie Baxter Camp (LS.New.LS4.3.31)

(May 30, 2011) E-mail from JoAnn Visaretis (LS.New.LS4.3.32)

(May 30, 2011) E-mail from Marena (LS.New.LS4.3.33)

(May 30, 2011) E-mail from Michelle Wozny (LS.New.LS4.3.34)

(May 30, 2011) E-mail from Shannon Kornelsen (LS.New.LS4.3.35)

(May 30, 2011) E-mail from Juli Kaiss (LS.New.LS4.3.36)

(May 30, 2011) E-mail from Jennifer Febel (LS.New.LS4.3.37)

(May 3, 2011) Letter from Fleming Pavlovski, Critters Castle Pet Shop Inc. (LS.New.LS4.3.38)  
 (May 30, 2011) E-mail from Annalea Pippus (LS.New.LS4.3.39)  
 (May 30, 2011) E-mail from Juli Kaiss (LS.New.LS4.3.40)  
 (May 30, 2011) E-mail from Melissa Knight (LS.New.LS4.3.41)  
 (May 30, 2011) E-mail from Sandra Lovell (LS.New.LS4.3.42)  
 (May 31, 2011) E-mail from Wade Shaw (LS.New.LS4.3.43)  
 (May 30, 2011) Letter from Alison Davies (LS.New.LS4.3.44)  
 (May 31, 2011) Letter from Denise Dove (LS.New.LS4.3.45)  
 (May 31, 2011) Submission from PIJAC Canada (LS.New.LS4.3.46)  
 (May 31, 2011) E-mail from Daniela Caruso (LS.New.LS4.3.47)  
 (May 31, 2011) E-mail from Cheryl Seibel (LS.New.LS4.3.48)

### **Communications (City Council)**

(May 28, 2011) Letter from Florence Orr (CC.Main.LS4.3.49)  
 (June 2, 2011) E-mail from Dean Maher (CC.Main.LS4.3.50)  
 (June 10, 2011) E-mail from Mia Riback (CC.Supp.LS4.3.51)  
 (June 8, 2011) E-mail from Stacey Halliday, Director of Marketing, PJ's  
 Pets (CC.Supp.LS4.3.52)  
 (June 11, 2011) E-mail from Dawn van Nostrand (CC.Supp.LS4.3.53)  
 (June 14, 2011) E-mail from Susan Dankert, Communications Advisor, PIJAC  
 Canada (CC.New.LS4.3.54)

### **Speakers (Committee)**

Dean Maher  
 Ken Wood  
 Barbara Rose  
 Fern Sinkins  
 Keith Burgess, on behalf of Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council of Canada  
 (PIJAC) (Submission Filed)  
 Rob Goddard, President, Helping Homeless Pets  
 Kate Steen  
 Alana Bjorn  
 Adam J. Bull, Paws Angels  
 Emmanouil John, Martha's Pet and Aquarium  
 Paul York  
 Susan Dankeet, PIJAC Canada  
 Councillor Michelle Berardinetti