

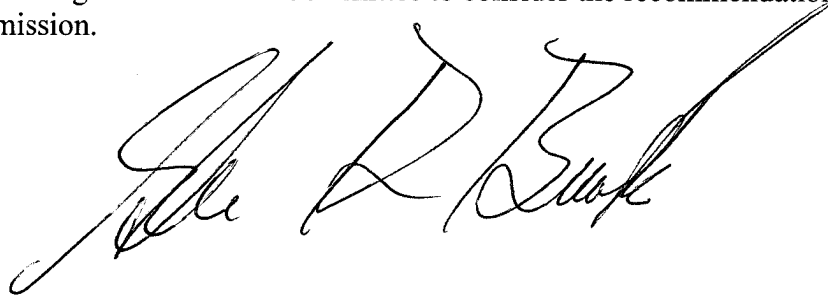
LS21.2.5

To: Licensing and Standards Committee

From: Councillor Glenn De Baeremaeker

Date: May 27, 2013

I would like to request the Licensing and Standards Committee to consider the recommendations contained in the attached submission.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Glenn De Baeremaeker', written in a cursive style.

Submission to the Licensing and Standards Committee from Councillor De Baeremaeker
– May 27, 2013

That Council:

2.) Amend recommendation #3 by including the word “ animal license fees” in the list of fees and include the phrase, “on compassionate grounds” at the end of the recommendation so that the recommendation now reads:

City Council amend Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 442, Fees and Charges, Administration of, to expand the delegated authority to the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards to reduce or waive adoption fees, spay fees, neuter fees, and license fees at any time during the year based on existing criteria and/or on compassionate grounds, within the existing base operating budget of Toronto Animal Services.”

3.) Amend Schedule A to Chapter 349, Prohibited Animals, to include:

REPTILES

- * Varanidae (monitor lizards)
- * Iguanidae (iguanas)
- * Chelydridae (snapping turtles, alligator snapping turtles)
- * Red-eared slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans*)

BIRDS

- * Gruiformes (cranes, rails)
- * Phoenicopteriformes (flamingos)
- * Shenisciformes (penguins)
- * Raptors (eagles, hawks, owls, vultures)

MAMMALS

- Pinnipedia (seals, seal lions, walruses)
- Cetacea (whales, dolphins, porpoises)
- Erinacidae (hedgehogs)

RAODENTIA

- Rodentia (such as porcupines and prairie dogs), except domesticated rodents which do not exceed 1,500 grams and are derived from self-sustaining captive populations.

4.) Amend 349-7 Tethers by adding to A: No animal shall be tethered for more than three hours per day and no animal shall be tethered between sunset and sunrise.

And approve the following recommendations within the existing base operating budget of Animal Services, that Council:

1.) Confirm the City of Toronto's commitment to reducing/eliminating euthanasia of adoptable animals in the care and control of the City and approve the following goals for Animal Services, publish these goals on its website, and include these goals as part of the preamble to the City's animal control by-law:

- 1.) The City of Toronto hereby affirms its commitment to reducing/eliminating the euthanasia rate of adoptable animals in the care and control of the City.
- 2.) No animal in the care and control of Toronto Animal Services shall be killed if the animal is healthy. Animals at Toronto Animal Services will only be euthanized for compassionate reasons.
- 3.) Toronto Animal Services can be placed in a suitable home, if a private sheltering agency or rescue group is willing to take care and custody of the animal for purposes of adoption, or, in the case of feral cats, if they can be sterilized and released to their habitats;
- 4.) Toronto Animal Services shall work with other animal adoption organizations to the fullest extent to promote the adoption of animals and to reduce the rate of animals killed;
- 5.) Adoption policies shall not ban, bar, limit or otherwise obstruct the adoption of any animals based on arbitrary criteria, such as age, colour, or other criteria except as to the individual animal's medical condition or aggression, or the adopter's fitness to adopt.

2.) Approve the following policy and protocol in the unlikely event that it will need to euthanize any healthy animal:

- A. Toronto Animal Services shall maintain a registry of organizations willing to accept animals for the purposes of adoption, as follows:
 - (1) All private sheltering agencies and rescue groups approved by Toronto Animal Services shall be immediately placed on this registry upon their request, regardless of the organization's geographical location;
 - (2) The registry shall include the following information: organization name, mailing address, and telephone number; website and e-mail address, if any; emergency contact information for the organization;

the types of animals about whom the organization wishes to be contacted, including species-type and breed;

- (3) All public and private sheltering agencies shall seek organizations to include on the registry;
 - (4) A public or private sheltering agency may require that registered organizations provide the following summary information on no more than a monthly basis: the total number of animals the organization has taken from the agency who have been adopted, died, were transferred, were killed, and are still under the organization's care. This information may be provided in an informal format, such as via electronic mail;
- B. No animal shall be euthanized unless and until Toronto Animal Services has notified, or made a reasonable attempt to notify, all organizations on the registry described in subsection A that have indicated a willingness to take an animal of that type.
- (1) Such notification must take place prior to the euthanizing/ killing of the animal;
 - (2) At a minimum, such notification shall include calling the organization's regular and emergency contact numbers, or sending an email to its email address, if any. Notification is considered complete as to each individual groups when this has been accomplished;
 - (3) No animal may be euthanized if an organization on the registry is willing and able to take the animal within two business days after being notified;
 - (4) No fee may be assessed for animals released to organizations listed on the registry.
- C. No sheltering agency may euthanize/kill an animal unless and until the agency has notified or made a reasonable attempt to notify, individual rescuers, rescue groups, and the public at large so that they may consider adopting or rescuing the animal consistent with the agency's normal adoption or transfer protocols.
- (1) Such notification must take place prior to the killing of the animal;
- D. The following exceptions apply to the requirements of subsections B and C:
- (1) All irremediably suffering animals shall be euthanized without delay. The determination that an animal is irremediably suffering shall be made in writing, signed by a veterinarian, and made available for free public inspection for no less than three years;
 - (2) Upon the impoundment of unweaned animals without their mother, all public and private sheltering agencies which have not placed the animals into foster care or are not able to provide supplemental feeding shall immediately make an emergency appeal to organizations on the registry that have indicated that they are willing and able to care for unweaned animals, and give such organizations a reasonable amount of time to respond to the appeal.

- E. No savable animal shall be killed simply because the holding period has expired. Before an animal is killed, all of the following conditions must be met:
- (1) There are no empty cages, kennels, or other living environments in the shelter;
 - (2) The animal cannot share a cage or kennel with another animal;
 - (3) A foster home is not available;
 - (4) Organizations listed on the registry described in Subsection A are not willing to accept the animal;
 - (5) The animal is not a feral cat subject to sterilization and release;
 - (6) The Executive Director declares there is no other alternative.
- 3.) Direct that Animal Services continue to publish all of its statistics on an annual basis (with a summary/explanation of what the stats mean) and continue to make this easily available on its homepage.
- 4.) Seek approval from the Ontario government to have municipal employees appointed with authorization to enforce the OSPCA Act and any other municipal powers necessary to prevent cruelty to animals within the City of Toronto.
- 5.) Convey Council's full support to the College of Veterinarians of Ontario for the Animal Services request for approval of a mobile spay/neuter clinic that can offer free spay/neuter services in Toronto's 13 priority neighbourhoods.
- 7.) The City shall waive the first six months of license fees for any person adopting an animal from a City shelter.
- 8.) The City shall waive license fees for animals being cared for by City recognized rescue groups and human societies.
- 10.) The City shall create an option to purchase a two year license.
- 11.) The City will aim to maximize license renewals by email and telephone.
-) The City will provide/make available a free "Rescue my pet" sticker to residents the first time they license their pets.
-) The City shall increase the license fee for unaltered animals by \$10 and those funds will be allocated to the City's spay/neuter program.
-) The City will ensure that paying license fees is convenient by ensuring payments can be made by internet, by telephone, by mail, at banks, at libraries, at civic centres, at vet offices, at kennels, etc.

.) The City shall work towards creating an internal Toronto Animal Services spay/neuter clinic at its downtown shelter.

.) All dogs and cats must be microchipped.

.) All dogs and cats obtained after the new bylaw comes into effect (August 1, 2013) must be spayed/neutered, unless they obtain a City of Toronto Breeder's license; such breeder's license will be conditional upon applicants meeting all criteria established by the Executive Director, MLS including, at a minimum, ensuring that:

- proper and humane care of breeding animals and offspring can be demonstrated,
- the person has not violated any City or OSPCA bylaws in the last 10 years,
- all offspring (except ones who receive a new breeders license) are spayed/neutered and
- breeder's pay the license fee as determined by the Executive Director, MLS.

.) The City shall operate a pet rewards program that aims to save pet owners as much or more than the cost of their license.

.) The City shall adopt a ban on unnecessary operations as defined by the Executive Director, MLS, including at a minimum declawing, debarking, ear cropping and tail docking, unless the Executive Director provides an exemption for medical reasons.

.) the City shall ban choke and pinch collars.

.) the City shall ensure on-going evaluations of customer experiences to ensure to ensure the shelter experience is a positive experience.

.) the City shall ensure a continuous improvement training program for shelter staff in terms of animal care, mediation and customer services.

.) Animal Services staff will host an animal care meeting at least twice a year to discuss ways and means of improving animal care and welfare within the City of Toronto with animal welfare organizations.

.) The City shall send out an Annual Update to all pet owners at the time of their license renewal (either by email or mail) that highlights the successes and challenges within Toronto Animal Services, the annual budget, where donation dollars are spent, our intake and euthanasia statistics, our dog parks, our animal shelters and their services, and volunteer opportunities and profiles.

.) the Animal Services website will profile every animal that has benefited from care made possible from public donations, including the challenge the animal and/or owner faced, the assistance the city was able to provide because of donated funds, the result of the work and health status of the animal after receiving assistance.

) the City shall ensure at least two FTE staff members are in charge of volunteer services and will guarantee that any resident who contacts TAS inquiring about volunteer opportunities will receive a reply within 48 hours and will aim to increase the amount of volunteer time spent with our animals increases by xx,000 hours per year.

) The City shall work with local high schools to encourage responsible young people to volunteer at our shelters as part of their high school requirements.

) The City shall work with NGOs, libraries community centres and schools to create a “Read with Rover” type program throughout the City with a goal of introducing thousands of young children to animals and the principles of responsible pet ownership.

) The City shall enforce our licensing bylaws primarily on a complaint basis and will not conduct door to door licensing blitzes.