



September 18, 2013

Chairperson and Members,
Municipal Licensing and Standards Committee,
City of Toronto

Dear Chairperson and Members of the Municipal Licensing and Standards Committee,

**P:\2013\Cluster B\MLS\LS13016
Assorted Issues and Proposals**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the following topics – prohibited animals, euthanasia, spay/neuter program, pet licensing and fees, animal welfare and customer service .

We are generally very pleased and want to thank City staff for the report. We particularly appreciate the development of the Guiding Principles on Animal Euthanasia and the proposal for a mobile spay/neuter clinic that would provide free services to residents of Toronto.

However, we recommend that the Committee expand the prohibited animals list to include: varanidae (monitor lizards), iguanidae (iguanas), chelydridae (snapping turtles), red-eared slider, gruiformes (cranes, rails), flamingos, penguins, raptors (eagles hawks, owls, vultures), pennipedeae (seals, sea lions, walruses), cetacea (whales, dolphins, porpoises), erinacidae (hedgehogs), and certain types of rodents.

The inclusion of these animals is very conservative. A number of other jurisdictions have already included those animals and even the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council has suggested that some of them be prohibited.

These species should be prohibited based on their need for specialized care, public health and safety issues, conservation implications and nuisance issues. In addition, when these animals are abandoned, surrendered or seized, Toronto Animal Services is required to provide appropriate space and care for them but they are not properly equipped to do so.

We urge you to adopt recommendations #1 and #2 in the report and amend #3 to expand the list of prohibited species as set out in the report.

Sincerely,

Barry Kent MacKay
Canadian Representative
Born Free

Liz White,
Director/Leader
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