

Chapter 349, Animals: Exceptions for Prohibited Animals - Education Programs

Date: December 12, 2016

To: City Council

From: Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards

Wards: All

SUMMARY

At its meeting of November 30, 2016, Licensing and Standards Committee adopted the staff recommendations contained in Item LS15.2: Chapter 349, Animals: Exceptions for Prohibited Animals. The recommendations amend Chapter 349, Animals, Article II, Prohibited Animals to delete the exception for the premises of facilities accredited by the Canadian Association of Zoos and Aquariums (CAZA); delete the exception for areas in the City where education programs are conducted with prohibited animals; and add Ripley's Aquarium of Canada (located at 288 Bremner Boulevard) to the listed exceptions.

However, since November 30, 2016, it has come to the attention of Municipal Licensing and Standards that a number of organizations, including the Toronto Zoo, conduct educational programs with prohibited animals in Toronto. As there is no requirement for organizations to register/advise the City, the City was not aware of the number of these organizations that conduct such education programs with prohibited animals.

In light of this new information and so as to not impact the operations of the Toronto Zoo and other organizations, staff request that City Council consider referring recommendation 1(c) back to staff, and only adopt recommendations 1(a) and (b). Staff will report back to Licensing and Standards Committee in 2017 with the new process for the City to conduct its own due diligence for organizations and facilities who want to keep prohibited animals in the City of Toronto.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial impacts beyond what has already been approved in the current year's budget.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting of November 30, 2016, Licensing and Standards Committee adopted the staff recommendations contained in Item LS15.2: Chapter 349, Animals: Exceptions for Prohibited Animals.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2016.LS15.2>

COMMENTS

The staff report, contained in LS15.2, was submitted to Licensing and Standards Committee recommending amendments to existing exceptions regarding prohibited animals as contained within Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 349, Animals.

However, since November 30, 2016, it has come to the attention of Municipal Licensing and Standards that a number of organizations, including the Toronto Zoo, conduct educational programs with prohibited animals in Toronto. As there is no requirement for organizations to register/advise the City, the City was not aware of the number of these organizations that conduct such education programs with prohibited animals.

The removal of the blanket CAZA exception for education programs conducted with prohibited animals will provide the City of Toronto the opportunity to conduct its own due diligence for organizations and facilities who want to keep prohibited animals. However, it has been identified that a more fulsome consultation process is necessary, in order to ensure that a newly developed procedure does not unduly impact reputable educational outreach programs.

In light of this new information and so as to not impact the operations of the Toronto Zoo and other organizations, staff request that City Council consider referring recommendation 1(c) back to staff, and only adopt recommendations 1(a) and (b).

Staff will report back to Licensing and Standards Committee in 2017 with the new process for the City to conduct its own due diligence for organizations and facilities who want to keep prohibited animals in the City of Toronto.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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