



February 1, 2016

Mayor John Tory & Members of Council  
Toronto City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2  
clerk@toronto.ca

Re: LS9.3 – Licensing of Wildlife Control Operators

Dear Mayor Tory and Members of Council,

Our close relationship with wildlife is one of the joys – and responsibilities – of living in Toronto, with its marvellous ravines. We are encouraged that the City is considering this issue, and support the Licensing and Standards Committee's recommendation to license wildlife control operators.

Unlicensed operators, intentionally or not, often kill the animals they are hired to remove. Improper trap use can lead to death from injury, starvation or exposure to the elements; while improperly removing wildlife can orphan litters of baby animals, leaving them to die. Managing nuisance wildlife must be done properly, to ensure the welfare of the animal and that the problem does not recur.

We encourage you to license wildlife control operators not just for the benefit of wildlife, but for the benefit of citizens, too. Untrained operators, releasing animals improperly, can spread diseases that affect humans and pets, such as rabies and distemper. Likewise, unregulated operators, offering services that don't actually fix the problem, lead to frustrated homeowners. A 1990-91 survey revealed that 26% of home owners attempted to trap wildlife by themselves; by taking things into their own hands, they raise animal welfare and public health concerns, plus put themselves at risk. Licensing wildlife control operators would increase public confidence and reduce these risks.

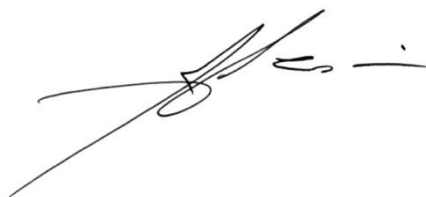
Regardless of their powers under provincial legislation, neither the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry nor the Ontario Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals operates in this sphere. The Ministry focuses on overseeing hunting and protecting ecosystems; their closest field office is in Aurora. The OSPCA investigates animal cruelty complaints and shelters companion animals; their office is in Newmarket. Both organizations are stretched thin to accomplish their current operations, much less oversee wildlife control operators in Toronto.

We would also like to take this opportunity to clarify incorrect statements by the Fur Institute of Canada and the Ontario Fur Managers Federation in their submissions to the City. The Toronto Humane Society does **not** deal with wildlife rehabilitation or enforcement. While we have expert staff with deep knowledge of companion animal care and shelter medicine, we work with the Toronto Wildlife Centre when it comes to wild animals. They are the experts in this very specialized area of wildlife management, rehabilitation and care.

At the Toronto Humane Society, we work in partnership with people and communities to find creative solutions and improve outcomes for animals, in pursuit of our mission: to promote the humane care and protection of all animals and to prevent cruelty and suffering. The City of Toronto is a leader in municipal animal welfare, from protecting feral cats to prohibiting pet store sales, and by embracing this opportunity can also become a leader in wildlife welfare.

Please, protect wildlife and Toronto's citizens by licensing wildlife control operators, requiring them to complete training courses and to follow humane standards.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jacques Messier', written in a cursive style.

Jacques Messier, DVM, MBA  
Chief Executive Officer  
Toronto Humane Society

cc: Tracey Cook, Executive Director, Municipal Licensing & Standards (tcook2@toronto.ca)  
Carleton Grant, Director, Policy & Strategic Support (cgrant@toronto.ca)