



Canadian Federation of Humane Societies

Fédération des sociétés canadiennes d'assistance aux animaux

July 3, 2017

City of Toronto
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Mayor and City Councillors-

Re: LS20.1 - Prohibited Animal Review – City of Toronto – July 4, 2017

I am writing to you today to share my view on the Prohibited Animal Review that City Council will consider on July 4, 2017. By way of summary, the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies takes the approach that, while cats, dogs and a small handful of other domesticated animals may be suitable for keeping as companion animals, the vast majority of animal species do not belong in the home, school, or institutional environment in an urban location such as Toronto.

The Canadian Federation of Humane Societies (CFHS) is the national organization representing humane societies and SPCAs across the country. Canadians have depended upon Humane Societies and SPCAs for nearly 150 years to enforce animal protection laws and care for the abused and abandoned animals in our communities.

Founded in 1957, the CFHS supports the enactment of federal, provincial, and municipal legislation that promotes responsible companion animal care and protects animals from cruelty. We work on behalf of our members to end animal cruelty, improve animal protection, and promote the humane treatment of all animals. We also work with other major stakeholders, including the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council of Canada, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, with whom we make up the National Companion Animal Coalition. The Coalition was formed in 1996 to promote socially responsible pet ownership and enhance the health and well-being of companion animals.

Mobile Live Animal Programs (MLAPs)

The staff report in connection with this review that was prepared for the Licensing and Standards Committee acknowledges the human health and safety risks of MLAPs, particularly when certain kinds of animals (e.g., fowl, reptiles) are exposed to high risk members of society, such as the elderly and children under 5 years of age. However, the report stops short of making any recommendations to curtail the use of these animals in institutional settings (e.g., daycares, senior's homes) thereby keeping vulnerable members of society who live in or frequent those institutions at risk. The report does indicate that Licensing and Standards would lead a public education effort about hand hygiene, public health tips for handling animals, importance of supervising kids, keeping food and drink out of animal areas, etc., but those are unenforceable recommendations and essentially only stopgap measures that will not do enough to protect those who are most at risk.

Ultimately, on the basis of the foregoing report, the Licensing and Standards Committee recommended that City Council amend Municipal Code Chapter 349 by deleting the prohibited animals' exception for educational programs, to come into effect on January 1, 2018.



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We support this recommendation and therefore urge City Council to approve the Licensing and Standards Committee's recommendation to end the use of prohibited animals by Mobile Live Animal Programs in the City, no later than January 1, 2018.

We thank you for your assistance with this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned if the Committee has any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Barbara Cartwright
CEO