



Report to: General Committee

Meeting Date: November 12, 2018

SUBJECT: Animal Services Follow-up - Zoocheck
PREPARED BY: Chris Alexander, Supervisor, Licensing and Standards

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that:

1. Council receive the report, Animal Services Follow-up – Zoocheck; and
2. Staff be directed to work with Zoocheck and the Animal Care Committee on 1) the creation of a Positive Animal/Pet List 2) Regulation of Mobile Live Animal Programs (MLAPs) 3) By-law amendments related to Animal Performances, Exhibitions and Displays; and
3. Staff bring back a report in the first quarter of 2019 with recommendations to address the creation of Positive Animal/Pet List, the regulation of MLAPs and Animal Performances and Display; and
4. Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

PURPOSE:

This report provides an update on the work done by staff with the international wildlife protection charity Zoocheck related to further amendments to the City's Animal Protection and Services By-law for the sale and keeping of exotic pets in the City of Markham.

BACKGROUND:

At the Council meeting held on June 26, 2018, Council adopted a new Animal Services and Protection By-law. As part of the resolution, Council directed staff to review the comments that were received from Zoocheck and report back this fall on their comments.

The focus of the comments from Zoocheck were related to 1) the creation of a Positive Animal/Pet List rather than the current Prohibited Animal List that is the Animal Services and Protection By-law 2) Regulation of Mobile Live Animal Programs (MLAPs) 3) By-law amendments related to Animal Performances, Exhibitions and Displays.

Positive Animal/Pet List

A Positive Animal /Pet List is a list of animals which residents can keep as pets in the municipality. It is a shorter list than the typical Prohibited List making it easier for residents to understand and more efficient for staff to enforce. The purpose of the list is to safeguard human health and safety and animal welfare which is based on independent, impartial, scientific and peer-reviewed evidence. A number of jurisdictions in Canada, the U.S. and Europe are adopting Positive Lists.

Mobile Live Animal Programs (MLAPs)

A MLAP is a program or show that travels to a location typically for birthday parties or other events and includes an assortment of exotic animals such as reptiles, snakes, primates and spiders. Zoocheck and other advocacy organizations have raised serious health and safety concerns for those attending these programs since most of them are children. The City of Toronto recently amended their Animal Services By-law to prohibit MLAPs from using any animals on their prohibited Animal List.

Animal Performances, Exhibitions and Displays

The animal performance provisions in the Animal Services and Protection By-law date back to the previous By-law which was written in 2005. Amendments have been discussed with Zoocheck to align animal performances with the proposed introduction of both a Positive List and the regulation of MLAPs.

OPTIONS/ DISCUSSION:

Staff met with Zoocheck and attended an Exotic Animal Workshop sponsored by the charity since the June 26th Council meeting. Both the workshop and the meeting were very informative and provided a great deal of information related to the comments made by Zoocheck in June of this year.

Zoocheck is currently working with the Province of Nova Scotia on a Positive List in their jurisdiction and recommended that once this work is completed, that they would share their List and findings as well as provide assistance with the regulations around MLAPs and animal performances in the New Year.

Staff believe waiting for Zoocheck to complete their work in Nova Scotia will greatly assist the City in developing its list and amending the City's regulations.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

None.

HUMAN RESOURCES CONSIDERATIONS

None.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

The health and safety of the residents of Markham.

BUSINESS UNITS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:

Legal

RECOMMENDED BY:

2018-11-05

X



Kimberley Kitteringham
City Clerk
Signed by: cxa

2018-11-05

X



Trinela Cane
Commissioner, Corporate Services
Signed by: cxa

ATTACHMENTS:

None.