

Hau, Lucy

Subject: FW: Pygmy Hedghog

From: zita au
Sent: Thursday, April 06, 2017 11:40 PM
To: Councillor, Colin Campbell - Markham
Cc: Gibbons, Michelle
Subject: RE: Pygmy Hedghog

Hi Councillor Campbell and Michelle,

Good evening.

Thank you for your email. We greatly appreciated your staffs' and your supports to value Joelle's request.

We're not sure whether we are able to attend the meeting on April 11, 2017 due to other commitment. If you're able to attend, please kindly bring up our opinion against the concerns made on April 3, 2017.

We're not trying to promote exotic animal trade, but we prefer to get the hedgehog from the breeder, if possible, for the following reasons:

- We have more confident that the breeder can provide us with a healthy hedgehog as they guarantee that all hedgehogs provided by them are free from any known and undisclosed illness or defects. The breeder will provide a 6 months guarantee to replace the hedgehog if it pass away within that time period due to congenital problem.
- Rescue centers don't always have hedgehog available for adoption in our area especially in Markham because they are prohibited animals.
- Hedgehogs from the Rescue center might have had a bad experience with humans before and might be harder to handle as a first time hedgehog owner.
- If we go on vacation, we can bring the hedgehog back to the breeder to take care of while we're away if we got it there. We're not sure if the breeder would be willing to take care of it if we got it from other places. Since hedgehogs are still on the prohibited animal list, we cannot bring it to our family nor friends' houses to take care of.
- We can get a full set of supplies of what a hedgehog needs from the breeder while the rescue center don't provide the supplies which maybe harder to find at pet stores since they are prohibited animals in Markham.

Regarding the concern of Salmonella disease:

- We'll require all family members to wear gloves each time when cleaning the cage and wash their hands thoroughly with soap after, as well as after each interaction with the hedgehog.
- As compare to 22 years ago (in 1995), people are more aware of this disease and medications are more advanced. As some surrounding areas of Markham are allow to have hedgehogs as family pets, we don't see a big concern towards wide spread of Salmonella disease due to one exception granted in Markham.

I'm so proud of my 10 years old girl who do all the research for the pet, search for the breeder, contact the vet, send letter to Councillor to ask for help, writing back and forth, etc. As you might agreed that not many kids will take the initiative to do all these at this age, I think she deserve a hedgehog of her choice (e.g. colour, gender etc.)

Thank you so much for everything that you and your staff had done to help. We greatly appreciate it.

Hope you'll have a fast recovery from the knee replacement surgery. Take care and get well soon.

Many thanks,

Zita