

Present:

Chairperson - Councillor Gill
Mayor Hepner
Councillor Hayne
Councillor LeFranc
Councillor Martin
Councillor Starchuk
Councillor Villeneuve
Councillor Woods

Absent:

Councillor Steele

Staff Present:

City Manager
City Clerk
Deputy City Clerk
General Manager, Planning & Development
Deputy City Solicitor
General Manager, Engineering
General Manager, Finance
Acting General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture
General Manager, Corporate Services
Director, Corporate Reports and Strategic Initiatives

A. DELEGATIONS**1. Kathy Powelson, Executive Director, Paws for Hope Animal Foundation**

File: 5250-20-17; 0550-20-10

The delegation provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the proposed banning of the retail sale of cats, dogs and rabbits, and highlighted the following information:

- Pets sold in retail stores often suffer from behavioural and health issues.
- Many of these pets have been born in inhumane breeding mills and backyard breeders. These are businesses that focus on financial profit and not the well-being of the breeding animals.
- The Canadian Kennel Club and Cat Fanciers Association prohibits its members from selling puppies and dogs to retail stores. Therefore, animals sold in pet stores often come from irresponsible breeders.
- Pet stores are often unable to provide adequate care to animals, including insufficient exercise, attention or socialization.
- Due to the behavioural and health issues associated with pet store animals, many owners surrender these pets to local shelters, therefore becoming a burden to taxpayers.
- Many animals are purchased from pet stores on impulse, with owners not realizing the responsibility of owning an animal.
- There is no consumer protection for animals that are purchased from retail stores, and very few retail stores will accept a returned pet.
- Research indicates that there is overwhelming support for the ban on retail sales of pets. Many other cities, including Richmond, New Westminster

and Vancouver, have already implemented retail sale bans on pets. Since banning the retail sale of animals, the City of Richmond had a 50% reduction in the reduction in the number of pets surrendered to local animal shelters.

- The retail sale of pets has a social cost, as there is a direct link between the retail sale of pets and the needless suffering of animals.

In response to questions from Council, the delegation provided the following information:

- Many puppies sold at pet stores can often be purchased from outside of B.C, therefore local regulation regarding puppy mills and backyard breeders may not be the solution to issues related to pet store animals. In addition, reputable breeders will not sell to pet stores. However, breeder regulations are required, and the SPCA is working on this issue at a Provincial level. Banning the importation of pets is a Federal issue.
- There are pet stores in Surrey that sell small animals such as gerbils, hamsters and rabbits. With the current regulations, these stores could sell cats and dogs.

B. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

C. CORPORATE REPORTS

D. DELEGATION REQUESTS

E. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

F. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

G. ADJOURNMENT


It was

now adjourn.

Moved by Councillor Starchuk
Seconded by Councillor Villeneuve
That the Council-in-Committee meeting do

Carried

The Council-in-Committee adjourned at 5:32 p.m.



Jane Sullivan, City Clerk



Councillor Tom Gill, Chairperson