RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP BY-LAW REVIEW

Phase 1 Public Engagement Summary

October 2021

Background

The Responsible Pet Ownership By-Law regulates the presence of wild and domesticated animals within Winnipeg, their activities, and the activities of their owners. Since the by-law came into force in 2013, opportunities have been identified to strengthen it to improve the safety of both pets and the community. Best practices in animal control and welfare have also evolved since the last review.

On May 10, 2021, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks directed the Winnipeg Public Service to review and report back to the appropriate Committee of Council, within 180 days, on a fuller review of the Responsible Pet Ownership By-law.



Engagement

The City of Winnipeg (City) reached out to stakeholders representing animal rescues, animal welfare, pet businesses, breeders, dog daycares, and exotic animal groups to gather input on proposed ideas to update the Responsible Pet Ownership By-Law. The proposed ideas were intended to start a conversation about improving animal welfare, animal safety and community safety in Winnipeg.

Four stakeholder meetings were held on the topics of animal control and welfare, dog daycares and breeding, urban wildlife, and exotic animals. The meetings began with a presentation of the proposed ideas following by a group discussion on:

- how the proposed ideas affect organizations;
- additional ideas to address by-law gaps; and
- other gaps in the bylaw that need to be addressed.

A list of stakeholders involved in Phase 1 public engagement can be found in Appendix A. Follow-up meetings occurred with stakeholders where additional information was required on alterative ideas and gaps in the bylaw. A list of follow-up meetings can be found in Appendix D.

A project webpage was also created for the general public to learn more about the bylaw review and proposed ideas. The webpage was promoted through a series of Facebook and Twitter posts. The general public was invited to share input through a dedicated project email address.

A summary of Phase 1 public engagement activities is in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Phase 1 Public Engagement Activities

Date	Activity	Participation
August 10 – September 7, 2021	Webpage	8,707 unique visitors
August 10 – September 7, 2021	Written submissions	795 submissions [1]
August 23, 2021	Animal Control and Welfare Meeting	12 attendees
August 24, 2021	Dog Daycares and Breeding of Dogs and Cats Meeting	8 attendees
August 25, 2021	Trapping, Poisoning, and Feeding Wildlife Meeting	7 attendees
August 26, 2021	Exotic Animals Meeting	66 attendees [2]
August 27 – October 18, 2021	Follow-up meetings [3]	22 meetings

[1] Written submissions do not include email campaigns and petitions; campaigns and petitions are summarized in Appendix C

[2] Exotic Animals Meeting was also attended by residents

[3] Follow-up meetings occurred with stakeholders where additional information was required

To learn more about the Responsible Pet Ownership By-law Review, please visit winnipeg.ca/RPObylaw

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What We Heard – Stakeholder Meetings

The following section summarizes what we heard through the stakeholder meetings. Feedback on the draft ideas for bylaw updates is summarized below, and sorted by the following themes:

- Dogs and cats
- Wildlife
- Exotic animals

Dogs and Cats

Two stakeholder meetings were held to gather feedback on the proposed bylaw amendments related to dogs and cats — animal control and welfare and breeding of dogs and cats/dog daycares.

Comments from attendees at the Animal Control and Welfare Meeting were largely focused on the overpopulation of dogs and cats. Four comments indicated support for mandatory spay/neuter of dogs and cats. Ideas shared include reducing the timeframe from six months to five months of age for the spay/neuter of cats, specifically addressing feral cats in the bylaw and provisions that allow shelters and rescues to fix unlicensed dogs and cats that are impounded before being returned to their owners.

Five comments from attendees expressed support for adopting standards for dog breeders in Winnipeg. Three attendees requested further clarification of the proposed amendments to the bylaws related to number of litters permitted per animal, per year, and the definition of a breeder. Ideas shared by participants include regulations for rescue organizations, and mandatory microchipping. Participants also indicated the need to be able to prevent people from breeding dogs that have displayed behavioral issues.

Four comments from attendees expressed support for best practice standards in the dog daycare. Many dog daycare businesses already have protocols in place that promote the safety and well-being in animals and people such as minimum square foot per animal, cleaning protocols, minimum ratio of worker to animal, and air quality standards.

Comments were also made regarding the application of regulations for home-based dog daycares vs. dog daycares in commercial spaces.

Wildlife

Comments from attendees at the wildlife stakeholder were predominantly about the lethal trapping and poisoning of wild animals. Attendees provided insight into animal welfare issues that stem from a lack of knowledge and understanding by homeowners on how to properly and safely set and monitor live traps. Two comments by attendees expressed support for continuing to allow the use of indoor glue traps and exterior bait stations by pest control companies and governmental agencies. According to the companies, when used correctly, rodenticide bait stations are an effective means to reduce rodents around the perimeter of a building and designed to prevent non-targeted animals from getting in.

Three comments by attendees indicated that non-target animals continue to get caught in lethal traps and they are supportive of prohibiting body hold traps. An attendee also noted that the safe and appropriate release of wild animals is not always possible and sometimes the best solution is to euthanize the animal in a humane way.

Exotic Animals

Comments from attendees at the exotic animal meeting were primarily about the allowable animal list (35 comments). Of those, 29 comments were about the selection of animals on the allowable list, and six were about the rationale for the allowable list. Attendees provided seven comments about the engagement process and five comments about the decision-making process. Three comments were about the research that was conducted as part of the bylaw review, and two comments were about enforcement. One commenter indicated that exotic animals are often neglected.

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What We Heard – Written Submissions

The following section summarizes what we heard through the written submissions. Written submissions received through the project email address from August 10 to September 7, 2021 were coded for common themes.

Note that the location of many written submissions could not be verified. Some campaigns and petitions did not require senders to include their location. Analysis of written submissions in this section therefore excludes email campaigns and petitions. Campaigns and petitions are summarized later in this report and in Appendix C.

Dogs and Cats

Table 2 identifies the number of times each theme related to dogs and cats was mentioned in the written submissions. Note that respondents could provide more than one theme in a written submission.



Table 2: Dogs and Cats Themes

Theme	Number of Mentions
Breed-Specific Legislation	209
Overpopulation of Dogs and Cats: Spay/Neuter	71
Breeding	32
Pet and Public Safety: Unattended Vehicles and Cycling with Dogs	31
At Risk Pets: At Risk, Dangerous and Exceptionally Dangerous Dogs	23
Feral, Stray and Roaming Cats	17
Animal and Public Safety: Tethering/Chaining/Dog houses	15
Animal and Public Safety: Dog Daycares	9
Dangerous Dog appeals	5

The following table outlines key ideas that were submitted to the City and explains how the project team considered those ideas when drafting recommendations for the by-law update.

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Table 3: What We Heard Dogs and Cats

What We Heard	How it was Considered
Overpopulation of Dogs and Cats: Spay/Neuter	
Mandatory spay/neuter of dogs and cats over six months of age is supported. It will reduce the strain on animal shelters and rescues.	Support for mandatory spay/neuter of dogs and cats over six months of age is noted.
Spay/neuter should not be mandatory and continue to be the choice of the pet owner.	Dogs and cats that are not fixed contribute to overpopulation which places a strain on shelters and rescues, results in euthanization, and can lead to disease with lack of veterinary care. Unfixed dogs and cats can also demonstrate aggression and an urgency to roam.
The six-month timeframe for fixing dogs is too short for large and giant breeds. Early sterilization of some dog breeds is not recommended by veterinarians for health reasons. Other exemptions like for show animals should be made.	Residents can obtain an intact pet licence so their dogs and cats do not need to be fixed within six months of birth. Some reasons for obtaining an intact pet licence include larger dog breeds that have not met their growth maturity, service dogs, law enforcement dogs, specialty titled dogs, medical issues, and show dogs and cats.
Any cat being placed for adoption or returned to a family should be sterilized regardless if it was impounded or received by a shelter or rescue organization.	Many cats are adopted before this 6-months of age. This would be too early to require sterilization for cats. Unlicensed cats over 6-months impounded at an animal shelter would be required to be sterilized prior to release.
The City will need additional subsidized/free spay and neuter options for both dogs and cats to accommodate the increased demand that will result from mandatory spay/neuter over 6 months of age.	The City and Winnipeg Humane Society have additional low income spay/neuter capacity for cats and dogs. It is not anticipated that additional capacity is needed. Numerous veterinary clinics in Winnipeg also fix cats and dogs.
Proof of alteration should be required in order to receive a discount on licence fees. One-time licences could be considered for fixed animals.	Pet owners currently receive a significant discount on pet licenses once their pet is fixed. The City is not considering any further discounts at this time on pet licence fees or changing to a one-time licence. Pet license fees are the primary source of funding for the Animal Services Agency.
Feral, Stray and Roaming Cats	
The City should increase enforcement and hold owners more accountable for roaming cats.	It is illegal under the current Responsible Pet Ownership By-law to let a cat roam. Owners of roaming cats can be fined up to $200. The City is not considering any additional changes.

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The City should consider a Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program by which feral cats are trapped, vaccinated, spayed or neutered, and then released into the environment.	The City is generally supportive of this idea being conducted by area animal shelters and rescue organizations; however, City currently does not have the resources for its own TNR program.
At Risk Pets: At Risk, Dangerous, and Exceptionally Dangerous Dogs	
Designation of at risk, dangerous, and extremely dangerous dogs is supported.	Support for the addition of an at risk designation and the existing dangerous and exceptionally dangerous dog designations is noted.
Removal of the option to appeal a dangerous dog designation is supported.	Support for removal of the option to appeal a dangerous dog designation is noted and is a recommended bylaw update.
Removal of the option to appeal a dangerous dog designation is not supported. Appeals are an important right and should be available to owners.	Significant dog on animal or dog on human attacks typically occur before a dog is reviewed for a dangerous dog designation. Owners are allowed to keep a dangerous dog with conditions that are designed to keep other animals and the community safe. Significant resources and investigations are utilized prior to designating a dog as dangerous.
Required dog training is supported. Owners of dangerous dogs should also receive additional education and formal training, including techniques to properly manage the dog.	Support for required training for owners of dangerous dogs is noted and is a recommended bylaw update to attempt to improve the behaviour and control of a dog.
The identity of a person who submits a complaint or incident involving a dangerous dog should not be revealed to the owner. Anonymity of the injured party reduces the risk of retaliation or intimidation by the owner.	The identity and information about a person who submits a complaint to the Animal Services Agency is not shared with the public. This information is protected under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA).
Animal and Public Safety: Tethering/Chaining	
Prohibiting 24/7 tethering/chaining and 24/7 outdoor dog housing is supported. Time limits for tethering or leaving dogs outside unsupervised should be included in the bylaw.	Support for prohibiting 24/7 tethering/chaining and outdoor housing is noted. Time limits would be difficult to enforce because enforcement officers would need to monitor how long the dog is left outside. The goal is to ensure that dogs are always supervised when they are outside.
Animal and Public Safety: Dog Daycares	
Minimum best practice standards for dog daycares is supported.	Support for minimum best practice standards for dog daycares is noted. The City worked with dog daycares to develop a list of dog daycare standards that are included in the draft bylaw update.
The ratio of one staff for every 20 small dogs and one staff for every 15 large dogs is too low.	The ratio was increased to one staff for every 25 small dogs and one staff for every 20 large dogs in the draft dog daycare standards.

To learn more about the Responsible Pet Ownership By-law Review, please visit winnipeg.ca/RPObylaw

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Muzzles and collars should be permitted for certain dogs in playgroups.	The ban of muzzles and collars was removed from the draft dog daycare standards.
Pet and Public Safety: Unattended Vehicles and Cycling with Dogs	
Prohibiting leaving dogs and cats unattended in vehicles during extreme weather is supported.	Support for prohibiting leaving pets unattended in vehicles during extreme weather is noted and is a recommended bylaw update.
The proposed temperature ranges for leaving dogs and cats unattended in vehicles is not supported. Different breeds have different temperature tolerances for hot and cold.	Adopting different temperature ranges for different dog and cat breeds would be very difficult to enforce. A single temperature range will provide protection to all breeds. Without a temperature range, residents would be unaware of the expectation regarding extreme temperatures.
Leaving dogs and cats unattended in idling vehicles is not supported. Idling vehicles produce greenhouse gases that lead to climate change.	The City does not support unnecessary idling and encourages leaving pets at home during extreme temperatures. However, it is understood that a dog or cat will not be at risk if the heating or air conditioning system is running in a vehicle.
Prohibiting cycling with dogs tethered to the bicycle when 22C or greater is not supported. Temperature thresholds for cycling with dogs should be greater than those when leaving animals in unattended vehicles.	The temperature threshold of 22C was established with the Winnipeg Humane Society and will provide protection to all dog breeds. Cycling with dogs on warm days can lead to heat exhaustion and cause burns on paws.
Breeding	
Requiring a breeding permit for dogs and cats is supported. It strengthens efforts to eliminate unregulated breeding, also known as “backyard breeding.”	Support for breeding permits is noted and is a recommended bylaw update. Proposed breeding permits would require active veterinarian care, history of responsible pet ownership, and inspection of the breeding property.
Displaying the permit number everywhere puppies or kittens are advertised for sale, including online sales, is supported. The sale of puppies and kittens by backyard breeders is a concern and should be monitored, especially through avenues such as Kijiji.	Support for displaying permit numbers is noted. A recommend bylaw update proposes that owners be required to display a permit number where puppies or kittens are advertised for sale.
The City should require all dogs and cats get microchipped or tattooed and licensed prior to being adopted or sold.	Licensing is required at 6 months of age, which is also a common age for dogs and cats to get fixed. It is also common for tattooing or microchipping to happen during the operation. Many animals are adopted or sold before this 6-month milestone.
Limiting the number of litters per female dog or cat, per year and over the lifetime of the animal is supported.	Support for limits on the number of litters is noted and limits are recommended bylaw update.
Breed-Specific Legislation	

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Removing breed-specific legislation is supported. The breed does not reflect the animal's behavior. The by-law should focus on the behavior of dogs and the responsibility of pet owners.	Support for removing breed-specific legislation is noted. Additional research on breed-specific legislation will occur before any updates to the bylaw are recommended to City Council.
Removing breed-specific legislation is not supported. Pitbulls and similar breeds should continue to be banned in Winnipeg.	Identification of prohibited dogs is difficult and based only on how a dog looks. Additional research on breed-specific legislation will occur before any updates to the bylaw are recommended to City Council.

Wildlife

Table 4 identifies the number of times each theme related to wildlife was mentioned in the written submissions. Note that respondents could provide more than one theme in a written submission.

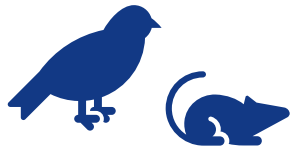

Table 4: Wildlife Themes

Theme	Number of Mentions
Lethal Trapping and Poisoning of Wild Animals	39
Feeding Wildlife	16

The following table outlines key ideas that were submitted to the City and explains how the project team considered those ideas when drafting recommendations for the by-law update.

Table 5: What We Heard Wildlife

What We Heard	How it was Considered
Lethal Trapping and Poisoning of Wild Animals	
Prohibiting the outdoor use of lethal traps and poisoning of wild animals is supported. Non-target animals get caught in traps resulting in injury or death.	Support for a prohibition of poison and lethal traps is noted. A bylaw recommendation includes prohibiting the use of outdoor body hold traps and, limiting the outdoor use of rodenticide to licensed pest control companies and government agencies.

Prohibiting the outdoor use of rodenticide poison bait stations is not supported. Exemptions are required that allow homeowners to deal with rodent issues without having to hire a pest control company.	Based on feedback, the City will not recommend banning outdoor bait stations for licensed pest control companies. Residents can address indoor pest issues without hiring a licensed pest control company.
Wildlife proofing is not an effective method to prevent rodent issues, particularly small breeds of mice.	Wildlife proofing a property will minimize pest issues and is an integral part of a pest control plan. Other outdoor pest control measures can occur with the use of a licensed pest control company.
The sale of prohibited poison and traps should be regulated or banned.	Support for a prohibition on the sale of poison traps is noted. A bylaw recommendation includes limiting the outdoor use of rodenticide to pest control companies and government agencies.
Feeding Wildlife	
Prohibiting the intentional feeding of wildlife is supported.	Support for a prohibition of wildlife feeding is noted and is a recommended bylaw update.
Limit bird feeding to winter months and restrict bird feeder design to prevent unintentional feeding of wildlife. Bird feeders are a year-round attractant for wildlife.	While the City recognizes that there is some research that supports limiting bird feeding to the winter months, the City is not considering limiting bird feeding to winter months at this time.
Develop restrictions to minimize issues created by garbage. Garbage is a source of food for wildlife.	The Neighbourhood Livability By-law currently regulates the maintenance of properties, including garbage on properties, in section 6.

Exotic Animals

Table 6 identifies the number of times each theme related to wildlife was mentioned in the written submissions. Note that respondents could provide more than one theme in a written submission.



Table 6: Exotic Animal Themes

Theme	Number of Mentions
Allowable list	244
Birds (excluding chickens)	114
Herptiles (reptiles and amphibians)	104
Fish	81
Exotic general	74

To learn more about the Responsible Pet Ownership By-law Review, please visit winnipeg.ca/RPObylaw

Possession limits	63
Chickens	16
Mammals (excluding dogs and cats)	15

The following table outlines key ideas that were submitted to the City and explains how the project team considered those ideas when drafting recommendations for the by-law update.

Table 7: What We Heard Exotic Animals

What We Heard	How it was Considered
Allowable Animal List	
The allowable list for exotic animals is not supported. It is too restrictive and excludes many common pets.	Non-support for the allowable list is noted. Additional engagement on exotic animals will occur before any updates to the bylaw on exotic animals are recommended to City Council.
The allowable list for exotic animals is supported. It provides protection to exotic animals and improves animal welfare.	Support for the allowable list is noted. Additional engagement on exotic animals will occur before any updates to the bylaw on exotic animals are recommended to City Council.
The allowable list will impact Winnipeg businesses by severely restricting the types of animals that can be sold. It will also impact the demand for food, habitats, and other products.	Impacts to businesses from an allowable list is noted. Additional engagement on exotic animals will occur before any updates to the bylaw on exotic animals are recommended to City Council.
The allowable list will impact veterinary care. Winnipeg will lose veterinarians that specialize in exotic animals, which will impact care for grandfathered animals and animals outside of Winnipeg that seek veterinary care in Winnipeg.	Impacts to veterinary care from an allowable list is noted. Additional engagement on exotic animals will occur before any updates to the bylaw on exotic animals are recommended to City Council.
The allowable animal list could create a black market for exotic pets. Residents will purchase exotic animals from outside Winnipeg or illegally in Winnipeg.	Education will occur regarding allowed animals. Enforcement of the allowable animal list will be complaint-based, similar to how the current prohibited animal list in enforced. Different types of exotic animals on the City's current prohibited animal list are already available outside of Winnipeg.
The allowable animal list could be too difficult to enforce and would require a lot of resources to monitor the pets people keep in their homes.	The City has experience in enforcement and already enforces the current list of prohibited animals with minimal resources.

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Exotic animals provide options for people with allergies who cannot adopt a cat or dog and are important for people's mental health.	The allowable animal list has many alternatives to dogs and cats for people with allergies. The City recognizes the importance role pets play in mental health.
Urban chickens should be permitted in Winnipeg, as they provide food security and give gardeners a high-quality fertilizer.	Support for urban chickens is noted. Additional engagement on the allowable list will occur before any updates to the bylaw around allowable animals are recommended to City Council.
Residents should be allowed to rehome exotic animals within Winnipeg that are grandfathered as part of the allowable animal list.	Based on feedback, the City will not include a rehoming requirement to outside of Winnipeg for grandfather animals.
Animal welfare needs to be a higher priority than people's desire to keep exotic animals. Exotic animals belong in the wild and not as pets.	The importance of animal welfare is noted. Additional engagement on exotic animals will occur before any updates to the bylaw on exotic animals are recommended to City Council.
Possession Limits	
Possession limits for exotic animals are too low, especially for fish.	Based on feedback, fish will be excluded from the possession limits. Additional engagement on possession limits for other exotic animals will occur before any updates to the bylaw on exotic animals are recommended to City Council.
Possession limits for exotic animals are supported.	Support for possession limits is noted.
Breeding exotic animals is important for conservation, as many natural habitats around the world are in decline. Breeding exotic pets have saved species from extinction.	The role of exotic animal ownership in conservation is noted. Additional engagement on exotic animals will occur before any updates to the bylaw on exotic animals are recommended to City Council.
The exotic animal trade plays a role in the decline of wild species, spread of invasive species, and transmission of diseases.	The impacts of exotic animal ownership on the environment are noted. Additional engagement on exotic animals will occur before any updates to the bylaw on exotic animals are recommended to City Council.

The written submission also included alternative criteria that could be used to develop an allowable animal lists. Ideas included restricting the ownership of animals that are on the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species list, CITES endangered species list, and provincial and federal lists of banned species for importation. Others submissions did not support an allowable animal list and provide alternative ideas including educate on proper care, create standards for proper care, regulate of the sale of animals at pet stores, provide permits/licences for exotic animal owners.

To learn more about the Responsible Pet Ownership By-law Review, please visit winnipeg.ca/RPObylaw

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Campaign Submissions

The City received six different email campaigns and one petition. Campaign submissions were received from across Canada and around the world. Campaign emails and the petition can be found in Appendix C.

Campaign/Petition	Description	Activity
Winnipeg Specialty Pets	Opposes proposed updates because of impacts to specialty pets, owners, and the pet industry.	605 submissions
Animal Justice	Supports proposed updates to protect companion animals, exotic animals, and wildlife.	416 submissions
ZooCheck	Supports the allowable list to provide greater controls over keeping exotic animals.	89 submissions
World Animal Protection	Supports for the allowable list to protect wildlife and prevent keeping exotic animals as pets.	82 submissions
Canadian Kennel Club	Recommends reconsidering mandatory spay/neuter for dogs over 6 months due to growth maturity issue and impounded unlicensed dogs as well as breeding permits.	14 submissions
Manitoba Canary and Finch Club	Opposes proposed updates that limit the types and numbers of birds that could be kept as pets.	8 submissions
Manitoba Canary and Finch Club Petition	Opposes proposed updates that limit the types and numbers of birds that could be kept as pets.	7,400+ signatures

Next Steps

Based on feedback from stakeholders and residents, additional public engagement is needed on exotic animals and the allowable animal list. The Public Service will request an extension to allow for more time to conduct a second phase of public engagement and prepare draft recommendations for exotic animals and the allowable animal list.

Draft recommendations to address gaps in the current bylaw with respect to cats, dogs, and wildlife will be presented to Council in winter 2021/22 for approval.

Appendices

Appendix A – List of Stakeholder Organizations
Appendix B – Meeting Notes
Appendix C – Campaign Submissions and Petitions
Appendix D – Follow-up Meetings

To learn more about the Responsible Pet Ownership By-law Review, please visit winnipeg.ca/RPObylaw

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Appendix A – List of Stakeholder Organizations

Stakeholder Organization List

Below is a list of stakeholder organizations that were invited and/or attend the stakeholder meetings.

Animal Justice
Assiniboine Park Zoo
Best West Pet Foods
British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
Boldwind Border Terriers
Canadian Kennel Club
CanHerp
Central Veterinary Services
City of Winnipeg - Community Services
City of Winnipeg- Parks and Open Space
City of Winnipeg - Property, Planning, and Development
Coyote Watch Canada
Craig Street Cats
D'Arcy's Arc
End Breed Specific Legislation Manitoba
Happy Tails Pet Resort & Spa
Humane Canada
Into the Blue
Kane Veterinary Supplies
Kildonan Pets
Khaleesi Australian Breeders
Manitoba Herpetocultural Society
Manitoba Pest Management Association
Manitoba Veterinary Medical Association
Nestor's Pets
Norwegian Elk
Orkin Canada Pest Control
Pawsh Dog
Parrot Association of Canada
Petland Canada
Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council of Canada
Prairie Exotics
Province of Manitoba- Chief Veterinary Officer
Province of Manitoba- Wildlife Branch
Rescue Siamese Cat Shelter
The Dog Loft
The Furbearers
Urban Canine
Windog
Winnipeg Humane Society
Winnipeg Pet Rescue
Winnipeg Reptiles
Woofs ‘n Wags
World Animal Protection Canada
ZooCheck

Appendix B – Meeting Notes

Responsible Pet Ownership By-law Review – Animal control and welfare

Location:	Virtual Meeting	**Date:**	August 23, 2021
Attendees:	12	**Time:**	1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Meeting Notes:

Q&A

Q: I have a concern about the 6-month timeframe to spay or neuter a cat. 6 months is too late. A cat can have a litter by 6 months of age.
A: Thank you for your feedback. We can look at that.

Q: Can you clarify what you mean by a "veterinarian reference"?
A: A veterinarian reference is identification of the veterinary clinic that currently or will be providing care for the animal. The idea is to ensure that animals are receiving basic veterinary care and to encourage responsible pet ownership.

Q: Positive (allowable animals) exotic list: Our organization received a lot of comments and concerns/alternatives about the list of allowable exotic animals. Can we get a copy of the paper that references turning negatives into positives mentioned during the presentation? Also, we would like to view the rational for how the list was developed if that is available.
A: Resources:

- Turning Negatives into Positives for Pet Trading and Keeping: A Review of Positive Lists
- Regulating pets using an objective positive list approach

Q: Will there be active or passive enforcement of the updated by-law?
A: Both. Our team already does a lot of proactive enforcement. We patrol parks, engage with people and hand out tickets in addition to responding to complaints.

Q: Will there be more detail provided throughout the process?
A: We will analyze the feedback received through stakeholder engagement and will circle back to some stakeholders if more clarification is needed. Prior to the council meeting, a report will be published which stakeholders can review and provide feedback on or appear as a delegation at City Council. City councillors will review the report and make a decision on what items to pass.
To ensure you receive project updates, visit the website and subscribe to get updates at Winnipeg.ca/RPObylaw.

Question #1: How would the proposed idea affect you or your organization?

- This is a huge step in the right direction. We're excited for all these changes, especially to remove breed-specific legislation and focus on the behavior of dogs and the responsibility of pet owners.
- Happy to have spay and neuter back at 6 months and will be very beneficial to the number of cats that they see at their shelter every year.
- We have a general concern of how it affects veterinary clinics. Winnipeg is a hub for veterinary care and a lot of people from outside Winnipeg bring their animals into Winnipeg for care and other special veterinary needs that aren't necessarily available outside of Winnipeg. There is potential for issues if rural Manitobans bring in non-allowable animals into Winnipeg for veterinary care. There is also potential for issues if the non-allowable animal requires an extended stay at the vet, which could mean the non-allowable animal is in temporary custody of the vet.

Question #2: Are there alternative approaches/ideas that would address gaps in the Responsible Pet Ownership By-law?

- Our organization will be providing formal recommendations regarding wild cats (feral cats) for your consideration.
- Recommend you connect with the Canadian Kennel Club (CKC) regarding spay/neuter requirements. Perhaps the by-law could include a small disclaimer or mention for CKC breeders.

Question #3: Are there other gaps in the Responsible Pet Ownership By-law that should be addressed in the By-law review to improve animal control or animal welfare?

- A draft idea is that animals that are impounded twice in their lifetime must be fixed before returned to their owners. Could that extend to shelters as well? Shelters do get animals into care that are returned to the owners from time to time. Is there some way to make sure that those animals get fixed before they are returned to the owners similar to impounded dogs or cats?
- Building off the idea above, is there any way to first to find out if the animal is licensed? We're looking for some official support to be able to enforce/help shelters to ensure cats are spayed before returned to their owners.
  Animal services: You really just need to go off your own records. That information is not public.

Responsible Pet Ownership By-law Review – Breeding of Dogs and Cats / Dog daycares

Location:	Virtual Meeting	**Date:**	August 24, 2021
Attendees:	8	**Time:**	1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Meeting Notes

Q & A

General Discussion

Q: The home inspections that you currently do for an excess animal permit, is that done by Animal Services staff?
A: Yes

Q: Why are you so late with the annual inspection process for the excess animal permit (I think I am 8 months behind)?
A: Thank you for that feedback. I will find out why that's the case.

Q: How do you designate an animal as a service animal?
A: In Manitoba, there is no certification process at the provincial level. The Manitoba Human Rights Commission has a section on service animals (policy #I-9). In our existing RPO by-law we include a definition of a service animal. In Manitoba, the Human Rights Code is the standard.

Q: Will we see a full revised by-law before it goes to council?
A: In the fall, recommendations will be made public before the council meeting. You can register as a delegate to provide feedback. To ensure you receive project updates, visit the website and subscribe to get updates at Winnipeg.ca/RPObylaw.

Q: Who makes up the appeals committee?
A: The Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks.

Q: Is the City considering any regulations for rescues. Practices such as "breeding for rescue" are happening.
A: Not in the current draft recommendations. Rescues are currently not regulated (in Winnipeg or provincially). If you have feedback on this, please email it to RPObylaw@winnipeg.ca by September 7.

Breeding of Dogs and Cats

Q: Have you considered required microchipping as an idea?
A: No, please send an email with that feedback.

Q: Temporary permits are currently hard to get of prohibited dog breeds. Would that be removed?
A: The draft idea is to remove breed specific legislation. That whole section will be deleted if approved by council.

Q: There is confusion among breeders as to whether they can only have one litter per year or one per animal per year. Suggestion to add "per animal" to the verbiage regarding breeding: Limit of one litter per year, **per animal** and no more than four litters over the life of the animal.
A: Thank you, we will make that clarification in the language.

Q: Who is the breeder of a litter? How will you define a breeder? If you have a household with 5 people, do they each get one litter per year, per animal?
A: We need to explore the application of this guideline further. Animal Services will reach out to get more advice and info from the industry.

Q: Can you clarify that the regulations for breeding only refer to females?
A: Yes

Q: How can we stop people from breeding animals that have displayed bad behaviour?
A: Education, tickets, remove the dog from the home.

Dog Daycares

Q: What would you be inspecting for or against? Right now, buildings are inspected so we can get a dog boarding/kennel permit.
A: Currently, there are no standards for dog daycares. The zoning officers look at the building structures, they have not been looking at other operational considerations that could lead to issues at dog daycares, such as separating dogs.

Essentially, the regulation will be similar to the excess animal process. We may look at cleaning plans, how dogs are separated (by behaviour or size-based), etc.? The intent is to create a regulation that is transferable to all businesses in the industry that keeps dogs and staff safe. We want to work with businesses to ensure compliance once implemented.

As we develop the guidelines, we will consult further with the industry. You are encouraged to send more content and/or we can set up a meeting to discuss. The guidelines are being developed with Animal Services and the Industry together.

Q: How are we going to know what your expectations are if they are no rules or if they are loose. What kind of punitive fees will there be?
A: There will be expectations, the rules will not be loose. Just as when Animal Services inspects a residential property, they have a protocol of what they are looking for. Because there is no regulation

right now, we need help from the industry to develop a regulation. It will be taken from the best practices that dog daycares provide. We want to develop a best practice that is transferable to all dog day care. Core basic values of what can make a safe, successful operation.

Comment: Regulations should include minimum square foot per animal, minimum ratio of worker to animal, air quality standards.

Q: Will the best practices be carried out in the grooming aspect of the dog daycares?
A: No, the focus is on the dog daycare itself not on other aspects of the business. If you have feedback, please send it in.

Q: Will home-based dog daycares be held to the same standard as daycares in facilities?
A: It's definitely something we can explore and look further into.

Question #1: How would the proposed idea affect you or your organization?

- In favour of adopting standards for dog breeders in Winnipeg.
- Regulation would be good for the dog daycare industry. Timeline seems tight to see what these regulations will be, and get the businesses on board early in the new year.

Question #2: Are there alternative approaches/ideas that would address gaps in the Responsible Pet Ownership By-law?

- Comment: Differentiating CKC breeders with the other breeders is not the City of Winnipeg's responsibility

Question #3: Are there other gaps in the Responsible Pet Ownership By-law that should be addressed in the By-law review to improve animal control or animal welfare?

- Create regulations for Animal Rescues

Responsible Pet Ownership By-law Review – Lethal Trapping and Poisoning of Wild Animals

Location:	Virtual Meeting	**Date:**	August 25, 2021
Attendees:	7	**Time:**	1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Meeting Notes

Q & A

Q: Clarification of what is meant by "outdoor": Prohibit outdoor use of lethal traps. Does outdoor use indicate outside a building and indoor use is inside a building?
A: Yes

Q: Can you clarify the use of lethal traps used indoors vs. outdoors. Does this mean that lethal traps can be used indoors?
A: The intent is to protect people, non-target wildlife and pets. Lethal traps cannot be used outdoors. If have feedback regarding lethal traps and their use indoors, please email it to RPObylaw@winnipeg.ca.

Q: A draft idea is to prohibit glue traps. Will there be a prohibition of the sale of glue traps in Winnipeg?
A: We may consider that.

Q: Are potbelly pigs addressed in this by-law? People in other jurisdictions have had issues with them being kept as pets.
A: Potbelly pigs are illegal right now unless you live in an agriculturally zoned area in Winnipeg.

Comments regarding messaging to the public:
We need to be careful how we refer to leg and body hold traps. The example in the presentation showed the use of an illegal trap that is very outdated and uncommon. That is the wrong message to send to the public from the trapping community. The language and messaging to the public needs to reflect and be clear regarding illegal and legally-approved traps.

I understand that the public doesn't like to see animals killed. However, people are often calling pest control services because they have not or cannot wildlife proof their property and now have an animal issue they cannot deal with. The public needs to understand that sometimes the best solution is to euthanize the animal in a humane way instead of "moving the problem" to another location.

Comments regarding Pest Control Industry:

- Leg hole traps are not common in industry; homeowners are doing that on their own. Industry uses live traps.
- One of the biggest hazards with animal trapping is homeowners doing it on their own without the knowledge or guidance from the industry to do it properly. Animal welfare is not top of mind for homeowners. A lot of times, it is disastrous. We see a lot of misuse by homeowners such as forgetting to check live traps. Often unintentional.
- Glue traps: Glue traps for rodents is specific and important for use in industry, when used properly. They must be used as inserts in mechanical traps. And idea is to allow for glue traps, used by industry that are contained in a device.
- Exterior bait stations: There are a lot of food safety programs that require facilities to reduce rodents around the perimeter of a building. From past experience, exterior bait stations can positively impact activity level of rodents inside a facility. This needs to be done properly but serves and important role in managing rodents, preventing them from entering facilities. Note that these are designed to prevent non-targeted animals from getting in. The animal has to be able to get in and maneuver the device to get to the bait.
- Snap traps are very uncommon in a residential setting.

Question #1: How would the proposed idea affect you or your organization?

- The veterinary industry deals with a lot of animals that get caught in traps. The less traps that are used would greatly impact the industry in a positive way.
- Every month our organization see animals coming in with trapping injuries; whether they be legal or illegal traps. Non-target animals are getting caught in traps to some degree.
- Our organization would like to see a prohibition on all body gripping traps.

Question #2: Are there alternative approaches/ideas that would address gaps in the Responsible Pet Ownership By-law?

- How will you define what is bird feeding vs. what is wildlife feeding? If you have not looked at it, I am encouraged looking at other jurisdictions regarding banning of feeding wildlife.

Question #3: Are there other gaps in the Responsible Pet Ownership By-law that should be addressed in the By-law review to improve animal control or animal welfare?

- Sale of traps: If there will be a prohibition of using some traps, consider restricting the sale of these with regulations. For example, only licensed trappers to purchase.
- Idea for a pest control company regulation: Pest control companies are required to check traps they set as often as needed, minimum of once a day.

Responsible Pet Ownership By-law Review – Exotic Animals

Location:	Virtual Meeting	**Date:**	August 26, 2021
Attendees:	66	**Time:**	1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Meeting Notes

- Birds wings are not clipped. It's just the flight feathers.
    - Similar to a nail trim which does not harm them.
    - Any bird, regardless of clipped or not, has the ability to catch a gust of wind and vanish.
- A bird's wings can be trimmed so that they still have some flight, and feathers grow back.
    - Like a cat or dog, sometimes birds get loose.
- Rehoming a bird outside of Winnipeg to an unknown party is cruel and a recipe for heartbreak and disaster.
- Isn't the Norway rat the wild rat, that caused many plaques in Europe centuries ago?
- Bushy tailed jird are rarely if ever available to the pet trade in Manitoba.
    - Why select that mammal to be included on the allowable animal list?
- Why not include chinchillas and dwarf species of hamsters on the allowable animal list?
- Where can we access these articles mentioned during the presentation?
- Who paid for the research? Is it peer reviewed?
- Was the request to review the by-law asked by Council or was it asked by an outside group?
- Seven of the 11 reptiles that on the allowed list make poor pets and are almost always caught in the wild caught.
    - How were these species selected?
- How were the snake species selected?
    - Why a kingsnake and not a ball python? Why a kingsnake and not any captive bred and born snake that gets 4-5 feet long?
- Corn snakes are allowed, what about common rat snakes?
- How can the argument be made that a bourke or lovebird could be considered a risk to public safety?
- What about people welfare?
    - Someone needs to study how pets kept people well in a pandemic.
- How you can select three species of snakes or 11 lizards is very confusing. Human safety? I get it there are hundreds of lizards and snakes that are harmless and are very similar to corn kingsnakes and milksnakes?
- Michele Hamers was invited to speak from World Animal Protection.
    - This organization is quoted by PETA often and their agendas are very similar if not the same.

    - There needs to be some clarification as to why Animal Services is asking an agency who clearly are right wing in their policies and agendas to participate?
    - What is the ultimate agenda here?
- The ultimate agenda is to ban all pets.
- Animals adjust to the environment, even in the wild, there is always disturbance.
- Ball pythons spend their life in tunnels under the surface.
    - They are ambush predators. They do not slither around the savannahs unless they are thirsty, moving to another home of looking for a mate.
    - They do not go on walkabouts
- Animal Services defines a ferret as domesticated but not a canary?
- There is a fine line on what is caught in the wild.
- Is the decision already made or is there a real intent to include other visions?
- Why can you can have one finch but not another when they are almost identical and as popular as a pet?
- I am just wondering aside from people who want positive lists, were any people with knowledge of the exotics in a different way asked to have any input?
    - It all seems pretty one sided.
- What is the thought on keeping dogs and cats? Also drinking milk and eating meat in the city?
- I thought that Animal Services said that they revisited the bylaw to improve safety?
- Who are the expert consultants? What agency are they from?
- If animal welfare is the main goal then why not educate and regulate breeders and sellers to ensure they are following proper protocols.
    - Most pet owners listen to the people they buy these animals from as they care about these animals
- Animal Services was asked tasked by who to come up with new RPO? City Council?
- Can we know which councillors were involved in the request?
- The list shows laziness. A gecko (African fat-tailed gecko) owned by participant is not wild caught and meets criteria.
    - It could be on the list but is not included.
    - Shortcomings come from a lack of education.
    - Reptile hobby is young and there is a lot of misinformation. Rather than banning, focus on education.
    - Have a local group put together proper care sheets for future pet owners rather than incorrect information from the past.
    - People are not getting the correct information at a pet shop and has created a negative image.
- Is there going to be a provision written in the bylaw to consult with the public and update the list on a regular basis?
- What is the evidence of harm or safety issues attributed to reptiles since the prior bylaw?

- If domestication is defined as “tame and kept as a pet or on a farm” I’m curious to know what you define as domestic if you’ve commented that an animal can be tame but not domesticated.
- What’s the criteria for an animal to be considered domestic?
- Coming from a rescue perspective, this list is tone deaf at best.
    - The list is specific but not specific enough.
    - Suggest species and size limitation.
- Pet stores take great offense that they do not educate customers.
    - Updated educational processes to educate pet councillors and guests. Using old education is completely wrong.
    - People in the pet industry care deeply. This is our life.
- Can you discuss the incredibly restrictive list of allowable birds?
- Horses are naturally wild, are we going to stop keeping them?
- Would you engage with CanHerp or other pet trade stakeholders to discuss the lists of creation?
- Are you basing allowable pets on how long they live?
- Will there be further public input on this discussion?
- Do you really think this can be properly enforced?
- Only 1% of reptiles on the global list will be available to the citizens of Winnipeg.
- Do you think untrained people are going to be able to enforce this?
    - What stops people from saying their animal is something else on your allowable list?
    - Do you know how many pitbulls are in Winnipeg that are not labeled pitbulls?
- Can you please respond to the bird restrictions and why all parrots could be banned?
- The list of animals is narrow and not correlated with reason.
- Community safety was brought up at the beginning of this meeting. How does banning all these animals protect the people?
- Is there a sub-committee that stakeholders can join the others that have already been consulted?
- Were Winnpeg vets and experts consulted to help compile this list?
- Why is an allowable list more appropriate today than in 2013 when a similar but much less restrictive list was soundly rejected by City Council?
    - What has happened in the interim that makes the City need to revisit this?
- Are all the emails being sent into the RPO reviewed by Leyland and the Animal Services or are others asked for input on the feedback?
- Can you provide a list of all people and organizations that were consulted?
- Can you please tell us which groups you contacted to consult with?
- What is driving the desire for an allowable list?
- What evidence shows that the animal welfare is such a problem in Winnipeg that it warrants the banning of almost all exotics species?
-

Responsible Pet Ownership By-law Review –Dog daycares

Location:	Virtual Meeting	**Date:**	October 13, 2021
Attendees:	8	**Time:**	10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Meeting Notes by Topic

Dog Daycare Standards:

- Definition: A facility that typically completes short-term daytime care and play for dogs where monies are accepted for the activity.
    - Definition only mentions daytime and a lot of services are offered overnight
- Our organization is in support of standards, but important information regarding enforcement is missing.
  Q: What happens if a facility does not meet those standard? Will the by-law specifically indicate what the fine or punishment would be? Fine schedule or charges?
  A: This is a work in progress. Animal Services may provide a verbal warning or issue a ticket. Tickets will be closely linked to existing fine schedule in the current RPO by-law (see schedule B).

Onboarding Dogs:

- Assessment process: All dogs must be initially assessed before being admitted to a playgroup to ensure they are not stressed in the presence of other dogs and do not pose a danger to dogs or staff.
    - Agree with an assessment process, disagree with "to ensure they are not stressed in the presence of other dogs". Many dogs come in showing a few signs of stress and after a few times attending daycare they are not stressed. It's how they are introduced into group settings.
    - Remove the wording about being stressed. Dogs need the initial assessment and that we feel that they the potential to fit in with groups but they may show signs of stress when they first come in.
    - Assessment needs to be spelled out clearly: separate assessment rooms, etc.

- Muzzle Use: Muzzles for evaluation purposes only. No muzzle use once the dog is accepted and integrated into a playgroup.
    - It may not be appropriate to use a muzzle for evaluation purpose. Dogs have to be desensitized to a muzzle. This defeats the purpose of a force free, fear free facility.
    - If muzzles are going to be allowed or mandated for evaluation purposes, clients should have to sign a release to use muzzles and they need to know why it is being used.
    - As long as a dog is trained to wear a muzzle, it can be a great training tool.

- It's an operational consideration and should not be in the by-law.
- Muzzles should be optional.

- Collars: No shock collars or collars/harnesses in playgroups
  - Collars/harnesses in playgroups should be optional and removed from the by-law.
  - There should be criteria for collars in playgroups (such as quick release collars) but I don't think collars should be banned from being used in playgroups.
  - We don't provide shock collars however some clients bring their dogs in wearing shock collars.
  - Shock collars should not be allowed as per the wording.
  - Some daycares are a naked dog daycare and would support this.

- General:
  - No muzzles or collars is a major change from how many dog daycares operate their business.
  - Create more flexibility in these items.

Training:

- Q: Is it up to the individual business to make up to plans?
- A: These would have to be developed by the individual dog care businesses. To my understanding, most businesses already have this. The business would come up with their own plans.
- Emergency plan to break up a dog fight: Idea - Develop a dog fight kit that can be used by all businesses.

Dog Play Groups:

- Q: How do you define a small dog?
  A: Size will not be defined in the by-law. Dogs should be grouped by similar size.

- Play area: Separate areas to separate dogs by size
  - Wording needs to be strengthened to provide clarity regarding the play space: The dogs must be separated by size, in separate areas.
  - Play style/temperament is an important consideration. We need flexibility for dogs such as large senior dogs that may be better suited in a small playgroup or a high energy small dogs such as Frenchies that may be better suited in large playgroups.
  - Play style/temperament to me is irrelevant, dogs find their own playstyle within their weight range. This is about safety; size of dog matters.
  - Introductions are key. Dogs should be introduced one at a time.

- Ratio: 1 staff member for every 20 small dogs and 1 staff member for every 15 large dogs

- Need more flexibility. Small dogs: ratio should be 25 or 30; Large: ratio should be 20

Facility:

- Air quality: Climate control systems to ensure fresh air at safe temperatures
  - Air quality is important. It should be a more specific and prescribed.
  - Some businesses are in older buildings, etc. and may not be able to comply. Will they be grandfathered in?
- Q: How can home-based meet facility standards?
  A: The guidelines are general enough so that all daycares can meet the standards whether they are home-based or operate in a facility.

General:

- Q: Will there be guidelines on how this will be implemented?
  A: When this gets passed, we will have an educational phase, working with the dog daycare industry. Generally speaking, many dog daycares already meet or exceed these standards. We could make them more prescriptive if needed. The goal is to have some common standards to ensure safety of pets and people.

- Q: Will there be a licencing requirement to operate a dog daycare?
  A: There is no licence required to operate a dog daycare. The by-law will provide standards only.

Appendix C – Campaign Submissions and Petitions

Campaign Title: Protect pets & wildlife in changes to Responsible Pet Ownership By-Law	
Organized by: Animal Justice	**Submissions:** 416 emails

To: Mayor Brian Bowman, & Winnipeg City Councillors
CC: Responsible Pet Ownership By-Law Contact

I'm writing to express my enthusiastic support for proposed changes to Winnipeg's Responsible Pet Ownership By-Law. The draft proposal offers progressive and promising amendments that could position Winnipeg as a national leader in the protection of companion animals and wildlife.

In particular, I strongly support the proposal to restrict exotic animal ownership in the City. While humans may enjoy keeping such animals as pets, that does not justify the suffering caused to animals whose physical, social, and psychological needs cannot be met in captivity. I support the proposed "positive pet list" model because it is concise, easy to enforce, and ensures new animals cannot be brought into the province to be kept as pets unless the City is satisfied that there are no safety or animal welfare risks involved in doing so.

I also strongly support requiring permits for dog and cat breeders, and limiting the frequency and times a dog can be bred. However, I also urge you to limit the number of dogs that can be kept for breeding purposes. This improvement would further help crack down on the puppy mill crisis and protect dogs from possible overcrowding and neglect.

Another aspect of the proposal that I am particularly supportive of is the ending of breed-specific legislation that unfairly targets pit bull-type dogs and does little to address irresponsible dog guardianship as a whole. In addition to this, I support the prohibition of tethering dogs 24/7, housing dogs outdoors, and keeping animals in vehicles in extreme temperatures.

Additionally, I strongly support proposed updates that would prohibit most uses of lethal traps and wildlife poisons. Prohibiting glue traps is also an important step toward stopping the use of these cruel and unnecessary products in the City.

Thank you to the City of Winnipeg for taking these important steps to promote the protection of companion animals and wildlife. I sincerely hope that these proposed changes are made to the Responsible Pet Ownership By-Law and that Winnipeg becomes a shining example of compassion towards companion animals and wildlife that the rest of Canada can follow.

Yours truly,

Sincerely,

Campaign Title: Supporting All Pets in Winnipeg's Responsible Pet Owners Bylaw	
Organized by: Winnipeg Specialty Pets	**Submissions:** 605 emails

Dear Mayor Bowman and Winnipeg City Councillors,

I am submitting this email to encourage the city of Winnipeg, a city that loves ALL pets to continue being a leader in the Canadian world of pets and NOT support the proposed by-law changes that are under consideration. I am asking the city of Winnipeg to appeal for additional research to be conducted on the proposed changes for the Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw. This includes engaging with stakeholders from all sides of the pet world.

Winnipeg is a city that cares for the health of its pets, however, the proposed changes put the welfare of Winnipeg's specialty pets in danger. This bylaw proposal targets the ability of Winnipeg's families to own pets other than cats and dogs in the future by eliminating most kind of birds, rodents, reptiles, amphibians, fish, and insects. A majority of these pets are successfully captive bred from reputable breeders within Canada and pose no threat to the conservation of wild populations.

Banning most specialty pets commonly owned in the city will drive sourcing for these animals to underground, unregulated sources, and away from established, inspected, municipally and provincially regulated sources that offer education and after sale care.

The proposal would decimate the economics of the Winnipeg Pet Industry that for so long has provided education and awareness to support the husbandry of these species in the homes of future and present pet families. All pet families including specialty pets. The impact would result in jobs being lost not only in the pet sector but also within the veterinarian industry. Veterinarians support families in Winnipeg by ensuring that the greatest care is available for their specialty pet family members.

Please consider a by-law that will not provide an allowed list, but rather a prohibited species list that would protect the specialty pets in Winnipeg and not adversely impact the families that love and care for them and have provided for them in ways that every pet deserves.

Thank you for taking the time to consider how this by-law proposal will impact the lives of thousands of specialty pets and their families who have them for lifetime companionship.

Thank you,

Campaign Title: Proposed Updates to the City of Winnipeg's Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw	
Organized by: Canadian Kennel Club	**Submissions:** 14 emails

Mayor Brian Bowman
City of Winnipeg
510 Main St
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3B 1B9

Dear Mayor Bowman,

Subject: Proposed Updates to the City of Winnipeg's Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw

As a citizen and responsible dog owner, I am contacting you today regarding the proposed changes to the City of Winnipeg's Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw.

I support the City's efforts to improve animal and community safety that promotes responsible dog ownership and responsible breeding practices. I also commend the City for proposing to remove breed specific provisions, in support of well-crafted dangerous dog measures. However, I believe that the following points require significant further review. I urge the council to reconsider these changes as there is the potential for unintended consequences for CKC member breeders and puppy owners:

1. Mandatory spay/neuter requirement for all dogs over 6 months of age (exemption for animals with an intact pet license, and specially title dogs i.e. Herding and Agility).
    - The details of these requirements are unclear. There are no provisions for those who would like to keep their dogs intact for all disciplines, breeding purposes, or pet owners who wish to wait until full physical maturity to spay or neuter their dogs.
    - There is misinformation that dogs that are not spayed/neutered can demonstrate aggressive behaviours and an urgency to roam. Many breeders and veterinarians do not advise early spay/neuter as studies indicate serious health and development implications.
2. Impounded unlicensed dogs would be required to be fixed prior to release. Any licensed dog that has escaped twice is required to be fixed prior to release. This does not take into account any unfortunate and isolated situations where a spooked dog (i.e. car accident or house fire) may accidentally escape.
3. The implementation of breeding permit requirements for dogs (and cats) that include:
    - Breeder's history of responsible pet ownership, although the details of these requirements have not yet been identified,
    - Inspection of the breeding property. The proposed changes do not include any details about who will conduct the inspection, qualifications of inspectors, or inspection

criteria. Inspectors would have excessive power and rights to enter private properties should they believe a dog is on the premises.

- Limit of one litter per year, and no more than four litters over the life of the animal. Initial information from the proposal does not distinguish whether it is one litter a year per dog or one litter a year per breeder. The proposal does not identify how these quantities and parameters were determined. Puppy litter sizes differ vastly depending on the breed and 2 age of a female dog. In addition, volume is not in and of itself a predictor of substandard breeding.

As a CKC member, I appreciate and value the CKC Code of Practice—which includes guidelines for CKC breeders related to food and nutrition, shelter and housing, sales practices, registration, and canine health—in addition to the CKC Code of Ethics, CKC Bylaws and policies, and requirements of the federal Animal Pedigree Act.

I find the proposed changes mentioned above to be detrimental to responsible dog ownership and responsible dog breeding. I urge you to reconsider these changes and to work with local responsible dog owners, local accountable dog breeders, and organizations such as the CKC—the canine authority in Canada and representative of 18,000 members and over 700 breed clubs across Canada—to help address serious issues such as backyard breeders and animal safety. Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Campaign Title: I support the proposed provisions to the Responsible Pet Ownership by-law	
Organized by: World Animal Protection	**Submissions:** 82 emails

Dear Mr. Gordon and Mr. Andronak,

As a Manitoba resident, I am writing to you to express my support for the proposed by-law provisions to address the keeping of exotic animals in the City of Winnipeg.

Wild animals belong in the wild, not in people's homes. There is ample research on the cognitive, emotional, and social capabilities of wild exotic animals to prove that they suffer when kept as exotic pets. I believe that restricting their sale, trade, keeping and use in the City of Winnipeg will benefit animals, residents and our local environment.

Exotic wild animals such as snakes and parrots will always have wild animal behaviours and needs, whether they come from the wild or are bred in captivity. Suffering is inherent to captivity for these animals because it limits their natural behaviour. They need to be able to perform natural behaviours in order to be healthy and happy and to experience a good quality of life.

Additionally, I am concerned about the role the exotic pet trade plays in wild species decline, the spread of invasive species and the transmission of diseases which can impact people, native wildlife and domesticated animals.

As a Manitoban, I urge you to take action and significantly restrict wild animal ownership by passing the proposed by-law provisions.

Sincerely,

Campaign Title: I support the proposed provisions to the Responsible Pet Ownership by-law	
Organized by: ZooCheck	**Submissions:** 89 emails

I support the Allowable List concept, greater controls over the keeping of exotic animals and I look forward to it being passed.

Campaign Title: Protect Winnipeg Pet Parrots , Finches, and Canaries!	
Organized by: Manitoba Canary and Finch Club	**Submissions:** 8 emails

Main reasons why the by-law proposal for exotics should be rejected:

1. Appropriate consultation with affected stakeholders and the public has not taken place and the short amount of time for feedback is unacceptable (public engagement period ends on August 31st).

2. Pet birds are considered companion animals very much like cats and dogs. They interact abundantly with people and enjoy doing so. Parrots are excellent, highly interactive, affectionate, and entertaining pets.

3. Banning all parrot species except for budgies and cockatiels implies that budgies and cockatiels require less care and have fewer needs than any other species of parrot. This is abjectly false!

4. The limit of five birds per household would effectively end the lifestyle of keeping aviaries of domestic finches and canaries, a hobby that has existed since the 15th century.

5. Pet parrots, finches, and canaries in Winnipeg are not sourced from the wild. The reputable captive breeding of these birds across Canada ensures that black-market demand for illegal trade in wild-caught birds is very low to non-existent. However, this could change under the proposed by-law if captive breeding and sale is banned, thereby increasing black-market demand and threatening wild populations.

6. There is no evidence that there is an overabundance of pet birds in Winnipeg. Parrots, finches, and canaries do not frequently end up in animal shelters and current levels of breeding help meet demand both within Winnipeg and across Canada. The breeding of most bird species is a specialized skill that requires dedication and is therefore only done by a small subset of bird owners.

7. Like cats and dogs, cases of hoarding birds are very rare and should not reflect negatively on the majority of good bird owners.

8. Local businesses and vets that specialize in bird care and husbandry will be greatly impacted, resulting in fewer services and resources for grandfathered birds.

Petition Title: Protect Winnipeg Pet Parrots , Finches, and Canaries!	
Organized by: Manitoba Canary and Finch Club	**Submissions:** 7,400+ signatures

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Petition details Comments Updates

Protect Winnipeg Pet Parrots, Finches, and Canaries!



7,478 have signed. Let's get to 7,500!

At 7,500 signatures, this petition is more likely to get a reaction from the **decision maker**!

AFTER YOU SIGN, DON'T FORGET TO LEAVE A COMMENT on How This new By-law will affect YOU and YOUR FAMILY!

Stop the City of Winnipeg from banning ownership of pet parrots, finches, and canaries!

Please support us by asking the City of Winnipeg to reject the ban on bird species and limitation on how many you may own!

On August 10th the City of Winnipeg's Public Engagement branch published a Responsible Pet Ownership By-law Review that includes **sweeping and drastic changes to pet bird, reptile, amphibian, and fish ownership** in Winnipeg that will see thousands of families and their pets adversely impacted. We need you to sign this petition and provide a comment. **Please also write to RPObylaw@winnipeg.ca with your objections and concerns!** The proposed changes are the most restrictive across all of Canada!

The Manitoba Canary & Finch Club has launched this petition against the City of Winnipeg's alarming proposal to ban the ownership of almost all species of parrot and greatly limit what finch and canary species may be owned. In addition to the species bans, individuals and households would be prohibited from owning more than 5 birds. Other groups such as reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates, fish and small mammals are also impacted with a large number of arbitrary species bans and possession limits.

If approved by council, this by-law amendment would mean that for parrots, only budgies and cockatiels could be owned in Winnipeg as early as January 2022. All other common parrots such as **parrotlets, lovebirds, conures, caiques, quakers, amazons, cockatoos, African greys, and macaws would be illegal** to own and rehome. For aviary hobbyists, the variety of species would be limited to just 26 of over 52 species of finches and 1 variety of canary. The practice of breeding any exotic animal would be prohibited. Current owners of banned species under this proposal would see their animals grandfathered. However, it would be illegal to rehome animals within city limits, presenting very real challenges that could threaten the safety and wellbeing of both people and animals.

The stated purpose of the by-law proposal is to "keep both pets and the community safe" and "ensure that pets are properly cared for and not placed in at-risk scenarios." The city has disingenuously attempted to do this by banning species and limiting the number of animals that may be owned rather than focusing on what is actually important: setting out minimum standards of care and promoting public education. Banning species and placing arbitrary limits on the number of birds that may be owned does nothing to address the principles of animal welfare quoted by the city, which include the provision of food, water, and shelter and to ensure that pets are kept in good health, are able to express natural behaviours, and are not subjected to mental suffering.

Main reasons why the by-law proposal for exotics should be rejected:

1. Appropriate consultation with affected stakeholders and the public has not taken place and the short amount of time for feedback is unacceptable (public engagement period ends on August 31st).

2. Pet birds are considered companion animals very much like cats and dogs. They interact abundantly with people and enjoy doing so. Parrots are excellent, highly interactive, affectionate, and entertaining pets.

3. Banning all parrot species except for budgies and cockatiels implies that budgies and cockatiels require less care and have fewer needs than any other species of parrot. This is abjectly false!

4. The limit of five birds per household would effectively end the lifestyle of keeping aviaries of domestic finches and canaries, a hobby that has existed since the 15th century.

5. Pet parrots, finches, and canaries in Winnipeg are not sourced from the wild. The reputable captive breeding of these birds across Canada ensures that black-market demand for illegal trade in wild-caught birds is very low to non-existent. However, this could change under the proposed by-law if captive breeding and sale is banned, thereby increasing black-market demand and threatening wild populations.

6. There is no evidence that there is an overabundance of pet birds in Winnipeg. Parrots, finches, and canaries do not frequently end up in animal shelters and current levels of breeding help meet demand both within Winnipeg and across Canada. The breeding of most bird species is a specialized skill that requires dedication and is therefore only done by a small subset of bird owners.

7. Like cats and dogs, cases of hoarding birds are very rare and should not reflect negatively on the majority of good bird owners.

8. Local businesses and vets that specialize in bird care and husbandry will be greatly impacted, resulting in fewer services and resources for grandfathered birds.

To support our cause, please help spread the word and most importantly, send the Public Engagement branch (RPObylaw@winnipeg.ca) and your local councillor your objections and concerns! Without your feedback this proposal could be ushered through this fall.

*Donations given to Change.org are not given to Manitoba Canary & Finch Club to help fight this by-law proposal. Please contact the Manitoba Canary & Finch Club directly if you'd like to financially support our efforts to represent bird owners. Donations to the site are used by Change.org for online advertising purposes.

Link to Manitoba Canary and Finch Club: http://manitobacanaryfinchclub.com/contact-us

Appendix D – Follow-up Meetings

Follow-up Meeting List

Follow-up meetings occurred with stakeholders where additional information was required on alterative ideas and gaps in the by-law.

Date	Organization
August 12, 2021	Urban Canine
August 18, 2021	Afishionados
August 18, 2021	Fish Gallery
August 19, 2021	Into the Blue
August 19, 2021	Assiniboine Park Zoo
August 19, 2021	Happy Tails
September 8, 2021	Manitoba Pest Control Association
September 8, 2021	Petland Canada
September 8, 2021	CanHerp and Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council of Canada Live
September 9, 2021	Pawsh Dog
September 13, 2021	Manitoba Canary and Finch Club
September 13, 2021	Government of Saskatchewan - Fish, Wildlife and Lands Branch
September 13, 2021	Woofs ‘n Wags
September 14, 2021	Pooches Playhouse
September 22, 2021	Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council of Canada
September 29, 2021	Government of Manitoba- Health Protection Unit
September 29, 2021	City of Winnipeg Municipal Accommodations
October 4, 2021	Manitoba Veterinary Medical Association
October 7, 2021	Manitoba Canary and Finch Club
October 13, 2021	Dog Daycares (8 attendees)
October 18, 2021	Winnipeg Humane Society, Zoocheck, World Animal Protection, Animal Justice