SUBMSSION – LOUISE BONSER

Item 2 of the Report of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks dated April 11, 2022 regarding Further Proposed Responsible Pet Ownership By-law Amendmentss

Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 11:42:19 AM

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Delegation information
Committee: Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks
Committee - council: N/A
Committee - other: N/A
Agenda item (number and title): Further Proposed Responsible Pet Ownership By-Law Amendments

Service inquiry: Submit Comments in writing
Participation preference: N/A
Comments in writing: My Name is Louise, I live in Manitoba and I support the removal of the Exotic Pets portion of The Responsible Pet Ownership By-Law amendment. We do support the current 'prohibited species list of exotics' where it pertains to posing a reasonable threat to individual and or public safety. The majority of Winnipeg/provincial exotic pet owners are responsible, respectful individuals and forming a positive species list is far too restrictive and totally unnecessary.

We personally keep and breed many tortoises in our home in rural Manitoba (www.prairiehillstortoises.ca ), some of the breeding success we have had was a first in Canadian history and we are contributing to the long term survival of some of these rarer creatures and increasing captive bred numbers. This is very positive and increases our knowledge about the species, their natural environments and can contribute in future to possibly helping to repopulate areas of the world where these animals are critically endangered or even extinct. I feel that the restrictions that are proposed do not accommodate us and prevent this crucial work to be done. We have been involved in the care and breeding of many species of tortoise for 30 years both here and in Europe too, and there was a mention of limiting numbers of individual exotics in homes for example-well that would cripple us as there is a huge need to create multiple bloodlines of animals to ensure future populations are healthy and vigorous.

Many of us research our animals extensively and create superb habitats for them in order to keep them in optimal health, it certainly is not fair to jeopardize the majority of us for the occasional 'bad apple' in the hobby.

The lists that have been proposed here and in other provinces for both positive and prohibitive purposes were not based on scientific knowledge in fact they might as well of been posted on a dart board and selected by random darts-it was embarrassing to see how little effort was made to create these so called well thought out lists. Most of the serious hobbyists, retailers, business, community organizations were simply not involved in this at all which is very sad.

There is certainly a biased nature behind some of these proposed changes by input from certain city officials and individuals in Winnipeg who follow various extremist animal rights groups who generally believe in keeping no animal as a pet and that would go as far as dogs and cats eventually too, this is just their first line of attack and then it goes on.

I believe The standing Policy and Executive Policy committees made the right decision on requesting this portion of the amendment be removed, and we hope the city follows that recommendation.