SUBMSSION – MELANIE FRASER

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

For April 28 council meeting

Thank you again for taking the time to address matters for the citizens of Winnipeg
I want to again briefly share my thoughts about the exotics ban.
I have raised lovebirds for many many years.
I have not seen any mass lovebird populations in or around the area that has been a result of Hoarders.
I have not seen lovebirds cause any damage to any citizens, nor see masses of them for re homing on Kijii

My birds all come from a tested aviary(PBFD and Psitticus) My nw birds are always quarenteened properly. I am taking huge steps to be sure we stay free of Avian Flu as well. My birds are rehomed with instructions for care, a buy back policy and unlimited help.
I have never stepped on a bird...and I have never had one hit a window and damage its beak. (As Dr Watson stated happens all the time)

Dr Watson talked in the prior meeting about a budgie that was being treated by himself. He seemed disappointed that the people did not know how the bird hurt its wing...and admitted they were a busy family. That same thing plays out way me everyday with dogs and cats, The people who brought that bird for treatment to him were no different than any cat or dog owner who had a pet with an injury that they did not know what happened to it. Yet here they were...with a budgie that they maybe paid $30 for and I can bet paying $400 after treatment for the bird. Dos that sound like someone who is not treating the bird humanely?
I see hoarders of dogs and cats and “stuff” in general. Bylaws are not going to curb this. But I can already see that the threat of banning birds has already caused some to begin to hoard. If they cant, then they will.

I think that banning any birds or having a positive list is not going to work. Any inspector or person investigating a complaint would need to have a knowledge of bird species. Right now I don't see they do,. They also would need to have extra people hired to go out for these types of complaints. It will result in higher costs to the city . How are they really planning on enforcing this?
Right now I see that cats and dogs already take up time to enforce. Cats are loose all the time still..and when picked up are usually never claimed. So I can bet that WAS and WHS handle way more cats than birds.

Exotics...will be kept secret from the city more if the bylaw comes into effect . The bylaw if enforced will also force people to search out underground ways to still get these animals, and care standards will be less that what is out there right now. That worries me . I work hard to be sure those with birds get the proper cages and toys and food for their pets. This Bylaw does not address any of that.
I would like to see more focus on care of these animals. Minimal standards that enhance their quality of life.

Sorry but keeping a bird in a roomy cage, letting it out to interact with family is not cruel. Keeping a dog in a condo with no yard freedom or fresh air is equivalent. Keeping a cat in house is not allowing it to practice natural abilities either. I dread the day that pets are no longer parts of our families.
If the true focus was on humane, then care would be addressed as opposed to limits on what people can keep as companions.

I also know of the incident where the person had all those African Greys and other birds in his home. He suffered Mental illness. He was also bringing in birds to sell to folks...even babies. It was a sad mess . And one that is NOT played out everyday. Thank Goodness.

The birds from that shut down were euthanized as they had serious medical issues and highly contagious viruses. Some also went for resale through Petland....
I want you all to think too how many actual issues there has been with pet birds. They should not be your focus at this time. Unless it is to address care...not kinds.....

Please do not re visit the Exotic portion of the Bylaws. Not a “positive” list or a limit. Instead educate people on the specific needs for these companion animals.
Thank you
Melanie Fraser
Resident