April 27th, 2022
WINNIPEG COUNCIL SUBMISSION
To: Mayor Bowman and Winnipeg Council
Email: As per City Clerk
RE: Delegation Submission Regarding Exotics Component

Thank you for allowing CanHerp to submit its delegation in the discussions of Specialty Pets “exotics as referred too” in the RPO Amendment for the City of Winnipeg. It's always beneficial to see municipalities evolve to the status of recognising the world of all pets for the families and for the pets themselves.

Please take in consideration that at the present-day Winnipeg’s prohibited species list of its Bylaw and its Bylaw regarding Specialty Pets is one of Canada’s top Municipal Pet Bylaw’s for both residents, the city and most importantly the specialty pets.

CanHerp would encourage the City of Winnipeg Council to continue the path as the respected Councillors of the Standing Policy Committee and the Executive Policy Committee voting in favour of deleting the amendment regarding “exotics”.

The time of processing this path of amendment, the financial costs in continuing this path of amendment and the amendment path of uncertainty for the families of Specialty Pets “exotics” needs to come to an end with the City Council supporting the vote of Standing Policy Committee and the Executive Policy Committee in deleting the amendment regarding “exotics” as well.

As noted, CanHerp stands by the present By-Law (92/2013) in place is relative to today's Specialty Pets (reptiles, birds, small animals and aquatics) climate. The prohibited species list is precise to the limitations of species that would be of concern to the municipality as well for the well being of the species in captivity.

CanHerp strongly supports the present direction of the prohibited species list within the municipality regulations.

CanHerp considered the following elements when assessing the species on the City of Winnipeg’s “prohibited” list.

- Public Safety Risk – in the event of an unfortunate circumstance would the species be a significant life risk to others
- Husbandry Requirements – Can they be met by the families’ daily activities
- Invasive Species – can the species establish itself within native habitat, compete for native habitat space, successfully reproduce with native species
- Available Captive Bred in North America – is the species readily available from sustained captive breeding groups in North America

- Zoonotic Transmission Risk – is there a significant risk factor of the species transmitting a Zoonotic health risk to humans
- Vet Care Availability – is there specialty pet veterinarians available to help with the medical needs in the event of emergency care and general medical updates
- Enrichment/Betterment of Life – Is the species capable of having a better life with access to enrichment
- Five Freedoms – are these achievable with each species
- CITES – is the species within the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species act and can it be transported with proper certifications
- Provincially Controlled – is the species under any specific provincial regulations
- Current ByLaw – how is the species listed within the present ByLaw

Please see the attached in Schedule A the list of species of reptiles that CanHerp has assessed for the Winnipeg Animal Services Bylaw amendment. It clearly shows that the present-day Winnipeg Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw has in place all of the species of concern covered.

This evaluation was tasked by our advisors which included Canadian Veterinarians, Zoological Curators, Animal Control Officers, Herpetologists, Physicians, reptile enthusiasts and Specialty Pet families.

The request by WAS to consider limitations of the number of specialty pets in a home. CanHerp believes this is a concern for all municipalities with the recognition of pet hoarding being recognised as a psychological diagnosis. Pet hoarding is a concern when dealing with any pet but seems to be more relevant in the world of cats and dogs.

CanHerp believes that there should be no possession limits with reptiles, amphibians, arachnids or all specialty pets just as other habitat-maintained pets like fish. When all the needs of the companion pet are being met the betterment of life is being met.

CanHerp would like to offer its knowledge and expertise in the development of an educational platform to offer insight on the best husbandry practices with specialty pets. This would enhance the ability of the Winnipeg Animal Services staff to support the pet families in Winnipeg an not place any further financial burdens on the City of Winnipeg.

In summary, CanHerp opposes the resurrection of this amendment to the further research level or to the level of consideration.

Winnipeg has some of the greatest pet families in Canada that is supported by a present date Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw that is just as great – if it isn't broken why try and fix it.

CanHerp since its inception in 2009 has advocated for specialty pets across Canada. Working with regulatory bodies in the evolution of regulations pertaining to specialty pets. CanHerp supports education, accountability, communication, captive propagation of species and responsible pet ownership. Supporting families that will share their days with pet companions, whether scaled, feathered, swimming or fur every pet deserves the opportunity to have a forever home.

With sincere appreciation

Grant Crossman

CanHerp