

Hello

Would you please distribute my correspondence relating to item 12.5 that appears in the council meeting agenda scheduled for Monday, 9th November to his worship the Mayor, members of council and stakeholder members of staff.

Dear Mayor and Councillors

Thank you for the opportunity to express some brief comments at the public meeting on Monday, September 5th.

I do have some additional comments I would like to share with you...

Rabbits

I also see a major issue with the number of rabbits being dumped into shelters. They are often purchased/adopted as temporary pets. When the novelty or the newness wears off they are disposed and dumped. In general society views them as 'easy' and disposable pets. These same people soon learn that the costs associated with care and the time required for enrichment is as high as a dog or cat and the cost for spaying/neutering or vetting in general is very high. I know our own Oshawa municipal animal shelter has had numerous rabbits being dumped off at the shelter or having been found abandoned and it can be difficult to find suitable homes once potential adopters are made aware of the associated care and costs required for these animals.

Therefore, I support adding rabbits to the proposed sourcing regulations. I also believe all communication from many advocates supporting the regulations have always included rabbits.

Community

One matter that was not mentioned is that over the years I have heard many people comment that they would not go into or support a pet shop that sells animals for profit. In general terms they have expressed that they are upset at seeing the animals being treated as a commodity in such a setting and I further consider that in recent years there has been a societal shift in animal ethics as reflected in many people's values that, in turn, is supported with more recent science-based research in animal behaviour and psychology.

I sincerely hope the restrictions on sourcing be implemented as I foresee that these same people would now regard all pet shops as part of a more equitable solution in the rehoming and adoption of animals that otherwise languish within the municipal and rescue sheltering systems while adding to associated sheltering costs. These same people would be more motivated to visit and support all pet shops and even, on occasion, adopt an animal from that pet shop knowing that it was sourced from the municipal shelter, humane society or recognized rescue organization.

This is why, for example, using pet shops as a satellite adoption location has proven to be such a success with municipal shelters and rescue organizations.

As such I feel this actually would be a positive and rewarding step forward that will support all stakeholders.

Regards,

Martin Field