

## **Reptile Rescue, Adoption and Education Society**

C/o Val Lofvendahl, 8080 Gilbert Rd. Richmond (604) 271-8995

Years ago, reptiles became a popular "trendy" pet with little information on their care. Books were scarce and contradicting. Today, reptiles have become more acceptable pets and information is available anywhere you look, albeit still a little contradicting. Some people educate themselves on the pet they prefer; however for the people that don't, public education is essential.

Children will often ask their parents for a pet through the promise that they will provide the care intended for it. When the parents discover that they must do the cleaning, feeding, etc. because the little one has now lost interest, they seek a new home for the pet, often to someone who doesn't know what is entailed.

Last spring the City of Richmond passed a by-law for a partial ban of reptiles and asked that pet stores also provide pertinent information about the ones they sell. This information should prove to be very helpful to the potential new owners but too late for the ones who purchased their companions previous to the new by-law. The majority of the reptiles we have received in the last 11 months are over 2 years old.

During last spring's by-law meeting the Rainforest Reptile Refuge in Surrey reported that they receive Richmond's fair share of unwanted reptiles. City Council suggested that Richmond should support the Surrey facility or maybe have one here to alleviate their burden. I felt that with my reptile and wildlife experience and a flexible schedule, I could successfully open this much needed care centre.

### **WHO WE ARE**

The Reptile Rescue, Adoption and Education Society is a not for profit volunteer organization dedicated to the care and adoption of unwanted and orphaned reptiles and to public education designed to reduce the causes of their plight.

We opened our doors in July of 2003 and became a registered non-profit society in March of this year. Charitable status is pending.

We operate 7 days a week and are available on call from 8am to 11pm daily.

### **BACKGROUND**

I have had reptile companions for 13 years. I have learned a great deal about them over that time and am enthusiastic about learning more. I am currently employed at a rehabilitation centre for birds of prey, starting my 11<sup>th</sup> year in the fall. I have done everything from cleaning cages to fecal exams, suturing small wounds to assisting in surgery and all aspects of administration. I have a very good relationship with a veterinarian experienced in reptiles who is willing to help me learn more about their medical care. The clinic will also place the orders for the supplies necessary for the general health of the reptiles.

## **CARE**

Care includes daily spot cleaning and weekly full cleaning of enclosures, daily preparation of "salad" for 15 lizards, daily cricket feeding for 16 lizards, weekly mouse feeding for 2 snakes and daily tube feeding of a chameleon. Drinking water is provided for all animals and weekly baths are given. The chameleon requires 3 soaks per day as part of his medical treatment. Fecal exams are performed on admission and treatment for parasites is given if necessary. Veterinary checks are included in the care if further treatment is required.

## **EDUCATION**

Educational presentations are in the preparation stage to promote proper living environment and health care for reptiles, the importance of our ecosystem, native and non-native species and why we shouldn't release the non-native reptiles into our environment.

## **FUNDING**

As soon as charitable status is confirmed, grants will be applied for. Media coverage in the local newspapers will let the people of Richmond know we exist. Tax-deductible receipts will be offered for donations over \$10. Annual fundraising like garage sales, silent auctions, car washes and sponsorships will be planned.

## **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

Once established in a proper facility where there is plenty of room to move around, grade 11 and 12 students will be able to volunteer time to go toward their required CAPP program. Biology and Veterinary Technician students may benefit from their volunteer experience. Through the justice system, young offenders may work the community hours imposed by the court.

## **THE QUEST**

For the past 11 months the rescue operation has been run from my house. We have reached the saturation point, and are now full. This puts us in the position of having to seek property preferably with an existing building or a property we can build on. We are respectfully asking the City of Richmond to help find a suitable location at a very low lease rate or if possible by donation. In the event of no property being available, would Richmond consider funding a care centre until some significant donations and/or grants come in. A licensed plumber and electrician are lined up to donate their services to make a building safe and to code.

Once in a more permanent facility, breeding of crickets, silk worms and mice can take place to reduce the costs of live food items.



## City of Richmond

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June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2004

File: 8060-20-7137

Ms. Val Lofvendahl  
8080 Gilbert Road  
Richmond, BC V7C 3W7

Dear Ms. Lofvendahl:

Re: Reptile Rescue, Adoption and Education Society

In response to your email dated June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2004, this is to confirm that arrangements have been made for you to appear as a delegation on the above matter at the General Purposes Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2004, at 4:00 p.m. in the Anderson Room, located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, of Richmond City Hall.

Yours truly,

J. Richard McKenna  
*City Clerk*

fja

**Ashton, Fran**

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**From:** Val Lofvendahl [esbat@telus.net]  
**Sent:** June 27, 2004 10:21 PM  
**To:** Ashton, Fran  
**Cc:** McKenna, Richard  
**Subject:** Re: General Purposes Committee -

Dear Ms. Ashton,

I would like to make a presentation to the General Purposes Committee meeting on July 5. I have attached the presentation. Please call me if you have any questions. I can be reached anytime at (604) 290-4158.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Val Lofvendahl  
Reptile Rescue, Adoption and Education Society

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Ashton, Fran  
**To:** esbat@telus.net  
**Cc:** McKenna, Richard  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 15, 2004 3:14 PM  
**Subject:** General Purposes Committee -

Ms. Val Lofvendahl  
Reptile Rescue, Adoption and Education Society

Good afternoon Ms. Lofvendahl.

The City Clerk, Richard McKenna, has asked me to contact you regarding your request to submit an item to the June 21st, 2004 meeting of the General Purposes Committee.

You did not indicate what it was that you wished to discuss with the Committee, and until this information is made available, it is not possible to make a decision regarding your request. If you could provide this information to either myself or Mr. McKenna, it would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

Fran J. Ashton  
Executive Assistant, City Clerk's Office  
604-276-4163  
[fashton@city.richmond.bc.ca](mailto:fashton@city.richmond.bc.ca)