

Date:

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

Place:

Anderson Room

Richmond City Hall

Present:

Mayor Malcolm D. Brodie, Chair

Councillor Linda Barnes Councillor Derek Dang

Councillor Evelina Halsey-Brandt Councillor Greg Halsey-Brandt Councillor Sue Halsey-Brandt Councillor Ken Johnston Councillor Bill McNulty Councillor Harold Steves

Call to Order:

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m.

## **MINUTES**

It was moved and seconded

That the minutes of the special meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on Monday, February 8, 2010, be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

## **BUSINESS & FINANCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

1. BANNING THE SALE OF DOGS IN STOREFRONTS

(File Ref. No.: 12-8275-01/2009-Vol 01) (REDMS No. 2731601)

## Tuesday, March 2, 2010

Marcie Moriarty, General Manager of Cruelty Investigations for the BC SPCA, was in favour of banning the sale of dogs in storefronts. Ms. Moriarty spoke of concerns related to dogs being sold in stores, noting that although pet stores claim that their dogs come from loving homes, these stores often hide behind puppy brokers. In March 2009, CBC aired a documentary that exposed Hunte Corporation, a puppy broker, and showed the conditions in which puppies are kept.

Ms. Moriarty noted that currently there are no regulations or authority that oversees dog breeders. Thus, pet stores can claim anything on their websites. In regards to Richmond pet stores' claim that their dogs come from 'licenced breeders', she questioned who licenced them.

She commented that neither the members of the Canadian Kennel Club nor other reputable breeders sell to pet stores as they do not know where their puppy will go.

Ms. Moriarty spoke of Richmond's current bylaw and said that although pet stores have a register to record who provided the puppy, this register does not include the address of where the puppy was acquired. Without the address, she questioned how the breeding conditions could be monitored.

She also listed business figures related to the sale of dogs in Canada, and advised that only 5% of money spent is on the purchase of the animal, the remainder of money is spent on other things for the animal.

In response to queries from Committee, Ms. Moriarty advised the following that (i) puppy mills are only in business because they have buyers; and (ii) although some puppies from mills may be healthy, they are bred in poor conditions.

Christie Lagally, volunteer with the Richmond Animal Protection Society (RAPS), distributed materials (copy on file, City Clerk's Office) and spoke in favour of banning the sale of dogs in storefronts. Ms. Lagally stated that RAPS would like to see a full ban as many puppies purchased from Richmond pet stores are surrendered to RAPS within the first two years.

She spoke of figures related to surrendered or abandoned purebreds, and noted that almost every jurisdiction in BC consistently only sees 25% of purebreds surrendered or abandoned. However, in Richmond this figure is 57%.

Ms. Lagally advised that surrender forms are included in the materials she distributed and noted that many of the forms indicate that the dogs were purchased from Richmond pet stores. Also, she referenced a petition in favour of banning the sale of dogs in storefronts.

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Ernest Ang, owner of the Richmond Pet Habitat, was opposed to the proposed ban. He stated that Richmond pet stores comply and perhaps exceed the standards of care set out by the Canadian Veterinarian Medical Association, humane societies, and the SPCA. He advised that Pet Habitat only receives puppies from government certified facilities. Mr. Ang was of the opinion that the banning of puppies being sold in Richmond stores would increase unregulated 'backyard breeding' and would create unfair competition for Richmond pet stores.

In response to the previously referenced CBC documentary, Mr. Ang noted that the video was one-sided and as such CBC has removed the link to the video on its website. He concluded by stating that pet stores want to be part of the solution and he invited the City to work with them. Mr. Ang read from his submission that is attached to and forming part of these Minutes as Schedule 1.

In reply to queries from Committee, Mr. Ang advised that he would provide Council with copies of the United States Department of Agriculture standards.

Discussion ensued regarding Richmond's current dog bylaw, and in reply to a query made by Committee, Wayne Mercer, Manager, Community Bylaws, advised that only three dogs are permitted per household. He clarified that puppies are not considered dogs until six months of age.

In reply to further queries from Committee, Mr. Ang provided the following information:

- those wishing to purchase a dog from Pet Habitat are told how big the dog will grow, its temperament, typical problems associated to the breed and so forth;
- many people wishing to purchase a dog from Pet Habitat are well informed as they have researched their choice prior to entering the store;
- Pet Habitat does not have a policy whereby a puppy must be visited in the store numerous times before it is purchased;
- every puppy sold from Pet Habitat has a microchip and must be checked by a veterinarian within 72 hours of the sale; and
- Richmond Pet Habitat sells over 200 puppies a year.

Discussion ensued regarding the CBC documentary and in response to comments made by Committee, Mr. Ang advised that Pet Habitat is against puppy mills and he has visited Hunte Corporation breeders. He noted that he would share more information regarding Hunte Corporation.

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Sarah Henderson, representing PJ's Pets, spoke in opposition to banning the sale of dogs in pet stores, and noted that a 2008 study conducted by Ipsos Reid indicated that only 10% of dogs owned by Canadians came from pet stores. The remaining 90% come from other sources, therefore, selling dogs in stores is not a problem. Ms. Henderson was of the opinion that a ban of the sale of dogs in pet stores will decrease jobs in Richmond as PJ's Pets has a particular position that solely deals with the care and wellbeing of puppies: Kennel Technician. Ms. Henderson read from her submission that is attached to and forming part of these Minutes as Schedule 2.

In reply to queries from Committee, Ms. Henderson advised that (i) an employee of PJ's Pets selects breeders; (ii) PJ's Pets puppies come from a family-oriented environment within Canada; (iii) puppies are checked by PJ's Pets' veterinarian once they arrive at the store; and (iv) Kennel Technicians receive in-store training.

Cheri Simmons, former Store Manager for PJ's Pets, was opposed to banning the sale of dogs in storefronts. She was of the opinion that this ban would take away accountability and responsibility to find good homes for dogs. There are no rules regulating breeders, therefore pet stores, which are regulated, are better places to purchase dogs.

Ms. Simmons spoke of PJ's Pets efforts to work with RAPS and indicated RAPS' Board of Directors declined to work with them as they did not endorse the sale of animals in pet stores.

In reply to queries from Committee, she noted that (i) better records should be kept in relation to where puppies come from; and (ii) PJ's Pets does screen potential puppy buyers in order to match the future owner to the proper dog. Ms. Simmons read from her submission that is attached to and forming part of these Minutes as Schedule 3.

Gary Batt, President, Petland Surrey, spoke in opposition to banning the sale of dogs in storefronts. Mr. Batt spoke of his involvement with the National Board of Directors of the Pet Industry in Canada and highlighted his participation during the creation and implementation of regulations related to dogs being brought into Canada.

Mr. Batt spoke of dogs being members of families, and companions. He stated that many parties are concerned with the proper breeding of any animal, and noted that his pet store attempts to regulate breeding and care as much as possible. Mr. Batt stated that he does not support puppy mills and believed that pet stores are not the problem, but instead part of the solution. He commented that often he sees puppies for sale on the side of the street and there are lists of puppies for sale in the classified ads of newspapers and on the internet.

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Also, Mr. Batt advised that Canada does not licence or regulate the breeding of dogs, therefore there are no standards for kennels, no regulations, and no inspections. He noted that such licences and regulations fall under the Provincial governments' mandate. Mr. Batt read from his submission that is attached to and forming part of these Minutes as Schedule 4.

Discussion ensued regarding how to best address the various issues raised by the delegations and Committee commented on:

- Richmond's kennel bylaw;
- regulations and enforcement of regulations for dog breeders;
- the submission of a resolution to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) seeking provincial standards for dog breeding;
- amending Richmond's bylaw so that the keeping of puppies is included in the three dog per household limit;
- enhanced record keeping of where dogs are attained from including the address; and
- Richmond pet stores' involvement in seeking legislative reform.

As a result of the discussion,

It was moved and seconded

That the staff report entitled 'Banning the Sale of Dogs in Storefronts' be referred back to staff to comment on:

- (1) what are the standards, if any, for people selling and/or breeding dogs in BC;
- (2) kennel regulations, as well as the number of dogs in households at various ages and the impacts;
- (3) liaising with Richmond pet store owners and Richmond Animal Protection Society to see what suggestions they have to address the issue; and
- (4) the potential grandfathering of existing pet stores based on the purchase of dogs from bona fide kennels in BC.

The question on the **referral** was not called as discussion ensued regarding further information required on the possibility of an enhanced standardized animal sales record, in particular to include the name and address of the supplier of the animal, and on whether the City has the authority to licence breeders and/or regulate the source of the animal's origin.

The question on the **referral** was then called and it was **CARRIED**.

## Tuesday, March 2, 2010

2. ROYAL BALLROOM DANCE STUDIO INC., DOING BUSINESS AS ROYAL RESTAURANT, UNIT #200 - 8040 GARDEN CITY ROAD (File Ref. No.: ) (REDMS No. 2819979)

It was moved and seconded

That the application by Royal Ballroom Dance Studio Inc, doing business as Royal Restaurant, for an amendment to add patron participation under Food Primary Liquor License No. 302360, in order to offer dining and dancing, be supported and that a letter be sent to the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch advising that:

- (1) Council recommends the amendment to the food primary liquor licence permitting patron participation for ballroom dancing on the premises as it will not have a significant negative impact on the community;
- (2) Council's comments on the prescribed criteria (set out in section 53 of the Liquor Control and Licensing Regulations) are as follows:
  - (a) The potential for additional noise and traffic in the area if the application is approved was considered;
  - (b) The impact on the community if the application is approved was assessed thru a community consultation process and considered;
  - (c) That the amendment to permit patron participation under the Food Primary liquor licence should not change the establishment so that it is operated in a manner that is contrary to its primary purpose was considered;
- (3) As the operation of a licensed establishment may affect nearby residents the City gathered the views of the residents as follows:
  - (a) Property owners and businesses within a 100 metre radius of the subject property were contacted by letter detailing the application and provided instructions on how community comments or concerns could be submitted;
  - (b) In addition, signage was posted at the subject property and three public notices were published in a local newspaper. This signage and notice provided information on the application and instructions on how community comments or concerns could be submitted.

## Tuesday, March 2, 2010

- (4) Council's comments and recommendations respecting the views of the residents are as follows:
  - (a) That the letters received opposed to the amendment to permit patron participation were reviewed and was determined that the type of entertainment proposed would not impact the neighbourhood significantly and that based on the number of letters sent and the lack of responses received, Council considers that the amendment is acceptable to the majority of residents in the area.

**CARRIED** 

## LAW AND COMMUNITY SAFETY DEPARTMENT

3. PROVINCIAL FUNDING FOR FIRE RESCUE SERVICES (File Ref. No.:) (REDMS No. 2736527)

John McGowan, Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue, provided background information and responded to Committee queries.

It was moved and seconded *That:* 

- (1) the reduced 2008 surplus allocation request of \$148,500 for additional temporary Fire Rescue services be approved: and
- (2) the General Manager of Law and Community Safety be authorized to execute the contribution agreement with the Province of British Columbia.

CARRIED

## CORPORATE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

4. REPLACEMENT OF MANAGEMENT STAFF (File Ref. No.: 05-1695-01/2010-Vol 01) (REDMS No. 2824618)

Discussion ensued regarding the various management positions that were the subject of the staff report and Committee indicated they wished to discuss the positions in greater detail.

As a result of the discussion,

It was moved and seconded

That following the March 2, 2010 Finance Committee meeting, Item #4 "Replacement of Management Staff" be considered in a Closed meeting of the General Purposes Committee.

CARRIED

## Tuesday, March 2, 2010

#### PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

#### 5. SERVICE AGREEMENT RATIFICATION

(File Ref. No.: ) (REDMS No. 2839372)

It was moved and seconded

That:

- (1) the VANOC Service Agreement be ratified as presented; and
- (2) the General Manager of Parks and Recreation be authorized to execute this agreement.

CARRIED

## **NEW BUSINESS**

## 6. Falling Ice and YVR Investigation

In reference to a recent article in a local newspaper, discussion ensued regarding ice falling from a plane and the seriousness of its impact on a local resident's house.

As a result of the discussion, the following referral was made:

It was moved and seconded

That the recent incident involving falling ice from a plane over Richmond be referred to staff to make inquiries of YVR on what occurred.

**CARRIED** 

## **ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved and seconded That the meeting adjourn (7:17 p.m.).

**CARRIED** 

## Tuesday, March 2, 2010

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee of the Council of the City of Richmond held on Tuesday, March 2, 2010.

Mayor Malcolm D. Brodie Chair

Hanieh Floujeh
Acting Executive Assistant
City Clerk's Office

Schedule 1 to the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on Tuesday, March 2, 2010.

Ernest Hng

Thank you Mayor Brodie and Richmond City Council for the opportunity to speak today.

I would like to begin with speaking about the city's proposal for a new bylaw in Richmond regarding puppy sales. At this time the pet stores in Richmond do not feel that a new bylaw is needed.

- Pet stores currently operating in Richmond BC comply and may even exceed with the standards of care (animal husbandry) set out by Canadian Veterinarian Medical Association (CVMA), Humane Societies, and the SPCA.
- Pg GP 7 of the staff report (p 6) states, "A submission from the BCSPCA (Attachment 1) speaks to a belief that in "a ban would play a role in reducing the number of dogs bred in horrific conditions". Right now pet stores have a screening process by which our breeders must comply with. For example Pet Habitat only receives puppies which have government certified facilitates; they are also government vet inspected upon arrival. Pet Habitat provides full records, and microchip identification for each puppy. These steps are in place to ensure we deal with regulated breeders, as pet stores are also against puppy mills. A ban on pet store sales will in fact create the opposite effect, by increasing the number of unregulated breeders. After 31 years of business, the quality of puppies from Pet Habitat in Richmond has only improved.
- Because pet stores are so visible we are the first stop for consumers.
   Education is key to a long term relationship with their pet. A 2009 study on responsible cat and dog owner segmentation in Canada, published by market research firm Kynetec, found that for both cats and dogs, pet stores ranked third behind veterinary clinics as a source for pet care information.
- The outright ban of puppies will have the opposite effect that city council
  is anticipating. Puppy sales will now be driven to unregulated back yard
  breeders, it will encourage an underground economy to grow in Richmond
  and it will promote an uncontrolled market with no protection to our
  citizens.
- When the city isolates only three stores, they created an issue of unjust competition and discrimination. A rule which applies to one, must apply to all.

Thank you again for giving me this time to speak, pet stores are here to be part of the solution. We encourage the city staff to work with us for resolution. I would urge the city council at this time to table this issue in order to focus on an effective solution to the problems we all face.

Schedule 2 to the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on Tuesday, March 2, 2010.

My name is Sarah Henderson from PJs Pets

Thank you Mayor Brodie and Richmond City Council for the opportunity to speak today.

I would also like to begin with speaking about the city's proposal for a new bylaw in Richmond regarding puppy sales.

- A concern of the city at this time is the growing population in our local shelters which they feel is due to the pet stores. A 2008 study performed by Ipsos Reid indicated that only 10% of dogs and 9% of cats owned by Canadians came from pet stores. With 90% coming from other sources why accept the argument that pet stores are a major source of the problem? For example at PJs Pets in Richmond we performed our own survey. Since 2007 of the total amount of people polled who purchased puppies, 89% still own their dog. 5% were refunded, and 6% no longer own the dog.
- A ban of the sale of puppies will have the negative impact of the loss of employment in Richmond. All pet stores currently employ staff whose job description is a kennel technician. This position deals solely with the care and wellbeing of the puppies in the store.
- In addition, community related positions will be seriously compromised, such as volunteer programs for people of all abilities. Students earning CAPP hours, and exchange students from countries such as Japan.
- Pet stores are accountable, they operate from a fixed address, provide medical records, offer expert advice and provide after sale support.
- Responsible pet ownership is as important to pet stores as to any other facility. For example at PJs Pets we screen potential pet owners based on a set criteria that includes; lifestyle, energy level and home environment. We discourage the purchase of pets as gifts. We promote spay and neutering in the form of a monetary gift certificate upon proof of altering.
- Pet stores are part of the solution, not part of the problem. Municipalities need strong partnership to help them address pet related issues with their citizens. Pet stores can help support the municipality in their efforts to target and deliver their message and also develop legislation that is fair and efficient for everyone.

Thank you again for giving me this time to speak. We encourage the city staff to work with us for resolution. I would urge the city council at this time to table this issue in order to focus on an effective solution to the problems we all face.

Cheri Simmons

Richmond BC

Schedule 3 to the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on Tuesday, March 2, 2010.

February 26 2010

Thank you Mayor Brodie and Richmond City Council for the opportunity to speak today.

My name is Cheri Simmons, I am the former Store Manager for PJs Pets, and I am writing this letter in response to your recent decisions made regarding the proposed puppy sales bylaw.

You must be aware of the fact that your decisions here today will have far reaching effects of which we will not be fully aware of until it may be too late. By banning the sale of rabbits and puppies or other animals from pet stores you take away accountability, responsibility and the good morals needed to find animals homes. Please, look at the pages of any newspaper in the pet section; you will see hundreds of ads for puppies and other animals looking to be sold. Who is regulating these nameless and faceless people? No one is..... and without pet stores this will go from an alternative place to purchase to the main place to purchase. It worries me what will happen then to all these animals. Right now you have an opportunity to put in place guidelines which will work for everyone. The outright ban of an animal is not a solution, it is only a stop gap. Solutions to this issue have already been put forward to Richmond Animal Protection Society (RAPS), solutions which they have refused to be part of.

From 1998 to 2008 I was a Store Manager for PJs Pets, of which the last 5 years were spent in Richmond. In the beginning of 2007 when RAPS took over the contract for the municipal shelter. Carol Reichert, (the executive director, manager, and founder of RAPS), and I established a relationship with the RAPS animal shelter and PJs Pets. In addition to providing RAPS with thousands of dollars worth of donated pet foods and guaranteeing RAPS a fixed discount of our suppliers book cost, I also told Carol that I would donate kennel or cage space for what ever pet she wanted to bring to the store which needed to be adopted. PJs Pets would also donate all the costs associated for the animal in our care for however long it would take to find a home which they would have full authority of who adopted. After many weeks of trying to arrange this with Carol, who kept assuring me she was all for this, Carol finally told me that the majority of Directors for RAPS had voted against having animals for adoption at PJs Pets. This made no sense then and still does not. How can they claim to be so

concerned with finding homes for pets and turn down an environment guaranteed to find homes? As another solution I then told her if they could not leave animals here, then what about a table set up on the weekend which they could man and show the public what animals were available for adoption. Again they would not accept.

I urge our city council to look for other more reasonable solutions which make sense to our city's problem. Arbitrary bans made by a select few are not the answer. Pet Stores are not the sole problem as shelters such as RAPS would have you believe. The staff who work in pet stores are just as dedicated to animals as the staff at shelters are. As you can tell by the above mentioned, pet stores are willing to be part of the solution, will RAPS step up and work with pet stores?

Please feel free to contact me at any time if you wish to discuss any of the above. Thank you very much, and I appreciate the time you spent to read this letter.

Sincerely,

Cheri Simmons

Former Store Manager PJs Pets Richmond BC



# Petland Surrey/Langley Petland Centre

102 - 19475 Fraser Highway Surrey, B.C. V3S 6K7 Tel (604) 530-7878 Fax (604) 530-3183 Schedule 4 to the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on Tuesday, March 2, 2010.

March 1, 2010

Mayor and Council, City of Richmond

Your Worship and Councillors

Re: Proposed ByLaw - Restricting the Sale of Dogs

Further to my previous letter, I would like to make these additional short points. I assume that each of you has received from the City Clerk my submission.

The originating request to the City seems to center on two points

a. The problem of puppy mills where they exist and

The rate of adoptions from the local shelter

Puppy mills can only be eliminated or reduced by the licencing, formulating regulations and inspection of the source of the problem, namely the breeders themselves.

The result would be a form of verifiable status available to any purchaser of a dog that the puppy was being bred in a quality environment. If such a system was in place, Cities such as Richmond could make it a bylaw provision that only dogs bred in licenced kennels be available for purchase in a pet store as is the present law for importation of dogs. Of course over 90% of dogs purchased in Richmond would not fall under such a bylaw and it would then only be through education that the general public be made aware of licenced and non-licenced breeders.

The question of adoptions from local shelters is a completely separate issue. Shelters generally have available for adoption, dogs which are older. Many people wish to adopt a puppy for their home and be able to train it themselves and have it grow up with their families — this position is not the fault of any pet store, it is human nature and restricting pet stores is not going to change this attitude.

In addition, from personal experience, dogs purchased from a pet store generally find that owners will return to the store where they purchased the dog for assistance in finding a new home for their pet should their circumstances change. In the small number of occasions where this has happened, the finding of a new home for their pet is because of marriage breakdown or having to move into a smaller home where pets are not allowed.

Banning the sale of dogs in a pet store is not going to change the reasons why pets at times need to find a new home — and in many many cases, it is the pet store which is the aid in finding that new home, not the local animal shelter.

Pet stores are quite willing to work with local shelters in helping to find new homes for dogs. Unfortunately, it is the local shelters which do not want our help when offered.

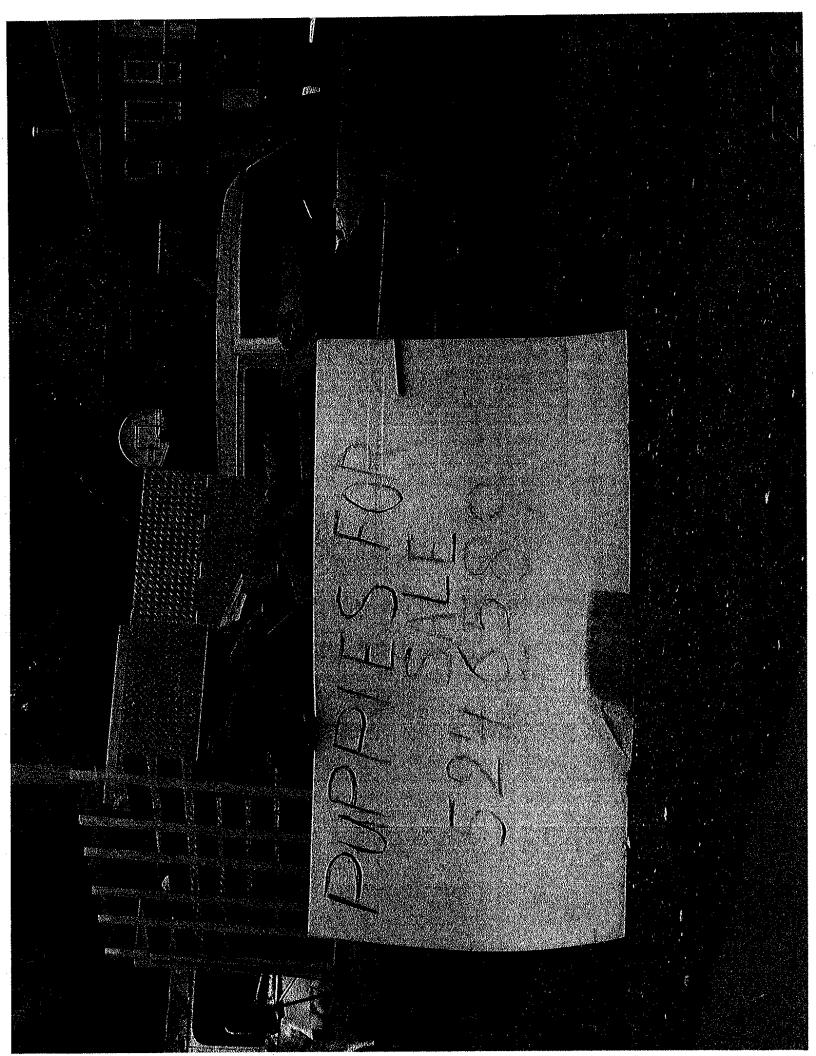
It has been mentioned that the Canadian Kennel Club has a code of conduct for their members. That statement is quite true but it is entirely a voluntary code, not enforced and in fact is just that, a statement. CKC breeders sell their dogs through the internet and newspapers. They are not regulated and in most cases, do not contribute to the community through the paying of taxes – they are completely unregulated. Only recently did they encourage their members not to sell through pet stores – reason is strictly business competition. Not so many years ago, pet stores were actually allowed to be members of the Canadian Kennel Club.

I would encourage the City to not make any changes to the existing bylaw. No proven reason has been demonstrated for any change. I would also encourage the city to take a leadership role together with the Pet Industry and animal welfare groups to have the Provincial government enact proper regulation of breeders — only then will we be able to try and control improper breeding practices. The pet industry is fully prepared to be a willing equal partner in this effort.

Thank you for allowing me to make my presentation.

Petland Surrey/Langley

Gary Batt,, President









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495.00

(Negotiable)

Breed

**CHIHUAHUA** 

Age

10

Weeks

old

Sex

Female

Vaccinated

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V5C

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