



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: General Purposes Committee

Date: November 30, 2009

From: Dave Semple
General Manager, Parks and Recreation

Re: Prohibition on the Sale of Rabbits in Pet Stores

Staff Recommendation

1. That Business Regulation Bylaw No. 7538, Amendment Bylaw No. 8566 (Attachment 1) be introduced and given first, second and third reading to ban the sale of rabbits in Richmond pet stores.

Dave Semple
General Manager, Parks and Recreation
(604-233-3350)

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ROUTED TO:		CONCURRENCE		CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER	
Business Licences		Y	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	<input type="checkbox"/>
Law		Y	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	<input type="checkbox"/>
REVIEWED BY TAG		YES		NO	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>MS</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
REVIEWED BY CAO		YES		NO	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>MS</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Staff Report

Origin

At the November 24, 2009 Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee Meeting, the following referral was made to staff:

“That the report (dated November 9, 2009, from the General Manager, Parks and Recreation) entitled “Prohibition on the Sale of Un-Neutered and Un-Spayed Rabbits in Pet Stores”, be referred to staff to bring forward a bylaw that supports the ban of the sale of pet rabbits in Richmond”.

Analysis

The Business Regulation Bylaw No. 7538 restricts certain types of animals from being sold in Richmond. The current list of prohibited animals includes, but is not limited to: primates (such as chimpanzees), chiroptera (such as bats) and all members of the lagomorpha species (such as hares and pikas) *except* rabbits.

A bylaw that bans the sale of all rabbits in pet stores is easier to enforce than a system based on neutering or spaying. The ownership of rabbits would not be prohibited and residents wishing to adopt a rabbit would be able to do so from the City’s Animal Shelter.

The Richmond Animal Shelter currently houses dozens of domestic rabbits but adopts an average of only one per month. Prohibiting the sale of all rabbits in Richmond, while still allowing residents to own them, can potentially reduce the number of rabbits in the Animal Shelter and at large in the community. Staff at the shelter conduct background checks and provide education on rabbits which may also reduce the number of adopted rabbits put out into the wild. In addition, all animals adopted out by the Richmond Animal Shelter are spayed or neutered prior to adoption, eliminating their ability to reproduce.

The amendments proposed in this report should go into effect three months from the date of adoption of the amendment bylaw in order for businesses currently selling rabbits time to adjust to the new rules.

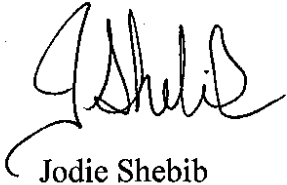
Financial Impact

None.

Enforcement for this initiative will be reactive on a complaint basis only utilizing existing staffing resources.

Conclusion

Staff recommends the adoption of the proposed changes to the City's Business Regulation Bylaw No. 7538 to prohibit the sale of rabbits at all pet stores in Richmond.



Jodie Shebib
Manager, Parks Programs
(604-244-1275)



Wayne Mercer
Manager, Community Bylaws
(604-247-4601)

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**Business Regulation Bylaw No. 7538,
Amendment Bylaw No. 8566**

The Council of the City of Richmond enacts as follows:

1. The Business Regulation Bylaw No. 7538, as amended, is further amended at Section 8 of Schedule B: PROHIBITED ANIMALS by deleting the reference to "Lagomorpha (such as hares and pikas), except rabbits" and substituting the following:

Lagomorpha (such as rabbits, hares and pikas)
2. This Bylaw comes into force and effect three (3) months from the date of adoption of the Bylaw.
3. This Bylaw is cited as "**Business Regulation Bylaw No. 7538, Amendment Bylaw No. 8566**".

FIRST READING

SECOND READING

THIRD READING

ADOPTED

CITY OF RICHMOND
APPROVED for content by originating Division <i>[Signature]</i>
APPROVED for legality by Solicitor <i>[Signature]</i>

MAYOR

CORPORATE OFFICER