



## Council Member Report

For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of February 22, 2018

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**To:** Committee of the Whole **Date:** February 19, 2018  
**From:** Councillor Thornton-Joe  
**Subject:** Proposed Animal Control Bylaw Amendment – Banning Sales in Pet Stores

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### BACKGROUND

Several years ago amendments were made in the City of Victoria's Animal Control Bylaw to address concerns about the sale of puppies, kittens and rabbits in pet stores. Evidence found that many of these animals were bought due to impulse buying and without screening of suitability. At the time there were approximately three pet stores in the City. The changes at that time were to include in the language under Pet Stores:

#### Sale of Rabbits

37. A pet store operator must not sell or give away a rabbit unless the rabbit has been spayed or neutered.
38. A pet store operator must:
  - a. keep and maintain a pet store register in the pet store containing a record of each transaction in which the operator acquires or disposes of a rabbit, cat or dog, including the following information;
    - i. the name and address of the person from whom the operator acquired the animal;
    - ii. the date of the acquisition;
    - iii. the animal's date of birth;
    - iv. a description of the sex and colouring of the animal, and of any tattoo, microchip number, or other identifying marking;
    - v. the date the operator disposed of the animal;
    - vi. if the disposition is other than by sale, the method of and reason for the disposition;
  - b. produce the pet store register for inspection by an animal control officer or bylaw officer,
  - c. provide copies of any entries required by an animal control officer or bylaw officer, and;
  - d. retain each transaction recorded in the pet store register for at least 12 months from the date of the transaction.

#### Pet store record of sale:

39. At the time of the sale of an animal, a pet store operator must
  - a. provide the purchaser with a written record of sale including the following information;
    - i. the date of the sale;
    - ii. the name and address of the pet store;
    - iii. a description of the animal;
    - iv. a description of any tattoo, microchip number, or other identifying marking;
    - v. the breed or cross breed, if applicable, and

- b. if the animal is a dog or cat, provide the purchaser with;
  - i. a health certificate from a registered veterinarian, and
  - ii. a record of medical treatment, vaccinations and de-worming.

All the above was included because it was found that often dogs and cats were being brought in from puppy or kitten mills and were under aged, malnourished and did not have the appropriate vaccinations and de-worming. Many of these animals eventually ended up in animal rescue organizations because the animal did not work out for the family, had constant health problem or many other reasons. Since then, many of the pet stores in the City have closed and animals such as dogs, puppies, cats, kittens or rabbits are rarely sold. Since our last amendment, the City of Richmond became the first City in Canada to amend their bylaws to include this and New Westminster, Vancouver, Toronto and many others have followed. To add such policy would add our names to the list of Cities already amending their bylaws on this important animal welfare issue.

## **MOTION**

Move to amend our Animal Control Bylaw to prohibit the sale of cats, dogs and rabbits in a pet store or other type of retail premises. The only exception to this are animals offered for adoption from a recognized animal rescue society or shelter organization at which time the current bylaw policy would still apply.

Respectfully submitted,



Councillor Thornton-Joe