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To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL" <CCDTMACDL@vancouver.ca>
Date: 6/19/2017 6:35:33 PM
Subject: Retail pet store - puppy sales

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

The following information regarding the sale of puppies in a retail pet store is provided in response to a request to staff from Councillor de Genova at Council's meeting on May 30, 2017.

The Licence By-Law contains requirements for operating a Pet Store. These requirements largely relate to the care of animals in the store, but there is also a section that refers to the keeping of records to identify where the animals were acquired.

A Property Use Inspector attended the Granville Pet & Garden Store at 8697 Granville St to ensure that animals are being kept appropriately per the requirements in the by-law. There are no immediate concerns for the animals' welfare: caging is large and clean, and animals are being kept away from the general public so as not to be handled unnecessarily.

We requested and have received a limited portion of records from the store, showing that they have received shipments of animals from South Korea and from Missouri. We've requested more detailed records in order that we can attempt to determine more specifically where the animals originated.

Although staff suspect that the puppies may have been purchased from puppy mills (as unfortunately both South Korea and Missouri are locations known to have puppy mills operating), it is highly unlikely that would be able to obtain actionable proof of that fact.

Other Cities have already enacted by-laws to limit for sale the type of animals held within pet stores. The City of Richmond banned the sale of dogs from storefronts in 2010 and the City of New Westminster banned the sale of cats, dogs and rabbits from storefronts in 2012. The BC SPCA is also strongly supportive of a ban on the sale of puppies, kittens and rabbits in pet stores.

Please do not hesitate contact Kaye Krishna or myself with any further inquiries regarding this matter.

Best,
Paul

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