

October 4 2010

City of Richmond  
6911n No 3 Road  
Richmond, BC  
V6Y 2C1 Canada

Attention: Mayor and Councilors

Subject; Petition against a proposed ban on the sale of puppies in pet stores.

Your Worship the Mayor, members of City Council;

The decision on whether to ban the sale of puppies or not in the City of Richmond is filled with many questions and I appreciate the time and thought that City Council has put to this decision.

Pet shelters, such as RAPS, would have you believe that the ban of puppies in pet stores will eliminate the issue of having unwanted pets in Richmond. As was shown during the last council meeting on March 2 2010, regarding this issue, banning the sale of puppies is not going to make the problem of unwanted pets go away. Regulating the sale of puppies is the only way the City of Richmond has any way to control what is happening.

In regards to the referrals to Council on September 10 2010;

**Referral 1**

*What are the standards, if any, for people selling and/or breeding dogs in BC,*

Richmond Pet Stores would support Council to put appropriate regulations in place in regards to the breeding practices and the sale of puppies.

**Referral 2**

*(What are Richmond's) Kennel regulations, as well as the number of dogs in households at various ages and the impacts.*

The current dog and cat kennel requirements currently apply to commercial kennels and may want to be readdressed to apply to "private" kennels with more "household" requirements. This would make it easier for private homes who breed puppies to come forward and meet kennel regulations, thus, not forcing them to go "underground".

**Referral 3**

*(That staff) liaise with Richmond pet store owners and Richmond Animal Protection Society (RAPS) to see what suggestions they have to address the issue;*

Pet Stores are against a blanket ban, but would suggest to City Council that pet stores and RAPS work together with Council to put together a viable by-law to regulate the source of puppies. Also, that pet stores and RAPS work together to find homes for unwanted pets.

**Referral 4**

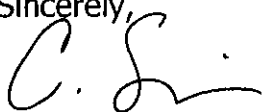
*The potential grandfathering of existing pet stores based on the purchase of dogs from bona fide kennels in BC*

As Staff states, this is currently not an option as there are no current accepted definitions of a bona fide kennel. I would suggest that Council look at what the City of Richmond deems acceptable for breeding standards and work with pet stores to put this into motion.

This issue is not an easy issue to come to conclusions, as when dealing with animals so many emotions do come into play. This makes it that much more important that Council take the time to consider all the options available in regards to putting regulations and by-laws in place to regulate the source of puppies.

This is to also remind Council that pet stores are here to be part of the solution.

Sincerely,



Cheri Simmons  
Former Store Manager, PJs Pets Richmond