



Report Number: EC2024-1336

Meeting: Executive Committee

Meeting Date: 2024 December 05

NOTICE OF MOTION

RE: Dogs, Cats, and Rabbits! A Responsible Pet Sales and Ownership Review

Sponsoring Councillor(s): Councillor Walcott

WHEREAS Calgary Animal Shelters are currently at capacity due to higher than normal rates of pets being surrendered, with many reports citing the housing crisis as one of the driving factors for pets being surrendered;¹

AND WHEREAS Calgary has repeatedly experienced various pet populations being released into the public, resulting in feral populations of certain animals, which in some cases has resulted in growing populations of the animals in our communities suffering from extreme health concerns;²

AND WHEREAS to ensure the health and safety of pets that are for sale, many municipalities have ended the practice of selling certain pets in retail locations due to the risk of animals being born in “mill” environments being sold in pet stores. In the past, Calgary has successfully closed several puppy mills with the support of Animal Protection resources like the Calgary Humane Society.³

AND WHEREAS Major cities in Canada that have already banned the sale of certain animals, like puppies, in pet stores include Richmond, Vancouver, London, Toronto, Montreal, Brampton, Kitchener and Waterloo;

AND WHEREAS More support is needed from the Province of Alberta in updating the Animal Protection Act to better define the conditions in which animals can be housed and sold from;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council direct Administration to bring a report to the Community Development Committee by Q4 2025 that;

1. Reviews the sale of pet dogs, cats, and rabbits that are not sourced from local shelter or rescue organizations – including, but not limited to:
 - a retail sales ban,
 - advocacy to the Government of Alberta,
 - a public education campaign,
 - bylaw updates and additions,
 - or other policy instruments.

¹ [Animal shelters overwhelmed with surrendered pets | CTV News](#)

² [Rare disease wiping out feral rabbits in Calgary, tests confirm | Calgary Herald](#)

³ [Dozens of dogs in 'concerning' conditions seized from Calgary home | Calgary Herald](#)