

## Remote Deputation Request Form – June 15, 2020 Special Committee of the Whole Meeting - Electronic

Please complete this form to provide a remote (live) deputation at the June 15, 2020 Special Electronic Committee of the Whole Meeting. Please return the form to [clerks@newmarket.ca](mailto:clerks@newmarket.ca) – completed forms must be received by **end of day Wednesday June 10, 2020**.

Name: Michèle Hamers	
Organization/Group/Business represented (if applicable): World Animal Protection	
Address: [REDACTED]	Postal Code: [REDACTED]
Phone Number: [REDACTED]	Email: [REDACTED]
Agenda Item Number and Title (your deputation must be in relation to an item on the Agenda): 5. Animal Control & Pet Store Licensing	
Provide a brief description of the purpose of your deputation: On behalf of World Animal Protection and our more than 160,000 supporters in Ontario, I would like to thank the town of Newmarket for prioritizing animal welfare and developing new bylaws, addressing much needed regulations pertaining to the keeping and sales of pets. I would like to ask for the opportunity to speak on the proposed Animal Control & Pet Store Licensing bylaw and share our concern, in particular to the listed animals in Schedule A. The bylaw is comprehensive when it comes to dog and cat provisions, but we are concerned however that many exotic animals are overlooked, which can result in the unintentionally suffering of many vulnerable animals. We like this opportunity to explain why many of the dog and cat provisions should be extended to wild animals who are kept as pets. As one of the leading organizations in Canada working on exotic pet issues we believe that our insights will be of value to Newmarket's council and staff. Thank you for your consideration.	

### Remote Deputation Requirements:

- Deputants must join the ZOOM electronic meeting using a high-speed internet connection and device capable of video-conferencing, or through telephone.
- Deputants must be available to join a test session to confirm these technical requirements on June 11 or June 12, 2020.
- Deputants wishing to use electronic materials such as PowerPoint presentations must provide electronic files during the test session.
- Remote deputations must be related to items listed on the agenda.
- Deputations are limited to 5 minutes.

Be advised that all Council and Committee of the Whole meetings (including this meeting) are audio-video recorded and live streamed online. If you make a presentation to Council or Committee of the Whole, your presentation becomes part of the public record and you will be listed as a presenter in the minutes of the meeting. We post our minutes online, so the listing of your name in connection with the agenda item may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Personal information on this form will be used for the purposes of sending correspondence relating to matters before Council. Your name, address, comments, and any other personal information, is collected and maintained for the purpose of creating a record that is available to the general public in a hard copy format and on the internet in an electronic format pursuant to Section 27 of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.M.56, as amended. Questions about this collection should be directed to the Director of Legislative Services/Town Clerk, Town of Newmarket, 395 Mulock Drive, P.O. Box 328, STN Main, Newmarket, ON L3Y 4X7; Telephone 905-895-5193 Ext. 2211 Fax 905-953-5100

Mayor and Councillors  
Town of Newmarket  
395 Mulock Drive  
Newmarket, ON L3Y 4X7



Dear Mayor and Councillors,

09 June 2020

**Reference: Written deposition**

On behalf of World Animal Protection and more than our 160,000 supporters in Ontario, I would like to thank the Town of Newmarket for prioritizing animal welfare by developing a new bylaw addressing a number of important animal welfare issues, including the regulation of exotic animals and their sale as pets. As one of the leading organizations in Canada working on exotic pet issues, we believe that our insights will be of value to Newmarket City Council and municipal staff. We trust that despite this information being provided to you late in the process that it will contribute to the enhanced protection of animals within your municipality and more effective bylaw enforcement.

The proposed bylaw addresses several very important issues, especially regarding the protection of dogs and cats. We applaud the efforts of the staff members who worked on the draft. However, we would like to draw to your attention the fact that many non-domesticated (exotic) animals seem to have been given less consideration or have been overlooked leaving them vulnerable.

World Animal Protection's most significant concern pertains to 'Schedule A' which contains a list of animals prohibited in the municipality. Most of the animals listed are those that have routinely been listed in other bylaws that were established in the 1980s and 1990s, and they tend to focus on potentially dangerous and/or zoo-type mammals. Relatively few birds, reptiles or other animals are included. The list is dated and is not in step with animal welfare science or the emerging trends in exotic animal regulation.

While 'Schedule A' contains a significant number of mammal species, it doesn't include almost 10,000 reptiles species (including almost 3,000 snake species, 6000 kinds of lizards and most of the approximately 355 turtle species), almost all of the 8,000 species of amphibians and more than 9,000 species of birds, including most of the world's 350 parrot species. Many of the thousands of animals I've just listed are species that are difficult or impossible to accommodate in home settings, many are



available in the pet trade, and they should not be made available to the general public in retail pet outlets.

World Animal Protection appreciates the intent of the two provisions in Schedule A, the first prohibiting animals, "whose possession or sale is prohibited pursuant to an international, federal, provincial law, regulation, rule or agreement" and the second stating that "All protected or endangered animals ... whose possession or sale is prohibited because they are designated as protected or endangered ... unless the Animal has been obtained in accordance with international, federal or provincial law, as applicable, and the animal is not included in this Schedule."

While these provisions are well meaning, in reality they afford little protection to animals as Canada's live wildlife import laws are relatively weak, many problematic species found in the pet trade are not subject to any import regulations, there is no regulation for exotic species once they are in Ontario and, last but not least, existing laws in Ontario fail to address the breeding of many problematic species in the province or other parts of Canada.

This is concerning not only for animal welfare reasons, but because these animals may also pose a risk to human health and to the local environment through the possible introduction of novel diseases and by establishing themselves as invasive species should they escape or be abandoned.

For the reasons stated above, World Animal Protection urges the Town of Newmarket to review 'Schedule A' with the intent of considering a wider range of problematic animals (reptiles, amphibians, birds, etc.) for inclusion (as many other municipalities have already done) or, alternatively, to move to a Positive List regulatory format in which only animals that are allowed and that satisfy certain criteria, like disease.

Regulation of exotic animals using traditional prohibited lists can be resource consuming, will require updating as new animal species are exploited by the pet trade and put the onus on municipalities to address issues retroactively. They are not preventative. British Columbia's exotic wildlife regulation is an example of this approach. Their regulation banned a range of animals, pet sellers turned to animals that were not listed as prohibited like smaller wild cats and certain rodent-like mammals from South America, leaving the provincial SPCA to deal with the fallout.

During World Animal Protection's review, we identified several other provisions, listed below, that should receive greater consideration:



### Animal Control Bylaw

1. In order to prevent the hoarding of non-domesticated animals kept as pets, implement a limit on the number of animals that can be kept by a person.
2. Extend the protective care of domestic animal provisions (Section 5) to all animals who are allowed to be kept as pets, this includes defining locations where impounded or disposed non-domesticated animals can be housed, protecting non-domesticated animals from being kept in cars and the general care provisions listed as providing a clean and sanitary environment, adequate and appropriate care, adequate and clean water supply, shelter and veterinary care.
3. Extend Section 13 'Animals at large' to include all animals who can be kept as pets within the Town of Newmarket.
4. Under Section 14 'Exemptions', veterinary offices, shelters and humane societies should be exempted from restrictions regarding to the number of non-domesticated animals that can be housed at their premises.
5. Prohibited Animals is defined in Section 2 'Definitions'. There are no provisions in the bylaw itself that refer to this definition nor to 'Schedule A'.

### Business Licensing Bylaw

1. Remove the option to house animals on wire mesh floor surfaces as they can be uncomfortable and negatively impact on animal health and welfare.
2. Extend the following provisions to include non-domesticated animals who are allowed to be kept as pets:
  - 6.(a) provide to every purchaser of a cat, dog, **other mammal, reptile, amphibian and bird** a health assessment from a licensed Veterinarian to verify the animal has received veterinary care.
  - 6.(g) give the purchaser on any sale or disposition of any cat, dog, **other mammal, reptile, amphibian, bird or other animals** being sold as a pet, a receipt showing the name and address of the vendor and the purchaser, the date of sale, the sale price, the breed/species or crossbreed, sex (if known, age (if known), and description.
  - 7. Every Pet Store shall maintain a registry of each animal purchased or otherwise obtained, Each entry shall be made at the time each animal comes into the possession of any owner, employee, or person associated with the pet store and shall include (...).



3. Add a provision that addresses backyard breeders of reptiles, amphibians and other small species which would be in line with the ban of dog and cat breeders within the Town of Newmarket.

In conclusion World Animal Protection urges you to extend the strong protections granted to cats and dogs to other animals kept in the Town of Newmarket. Birds, reptiles, amphibians and other animals are now known to be sentient beings who can experience pain, suffering and stress, as well as positive emotional states such as excitement and pleasure. These animals deserve as much consideration as cats and dogs. Furthermore, we urge the Town of Newmarket to consider a permitted list rather than a prohibited list. Prohibited lists are proven to be long, cumbersome and inefficient, whereas a permitted list is clear, concise, financially beneficial and better protect animals, humans and our environment equally

If you have any questions or would like more information, please don't hesitate to contact me at [MicheleHamers@worldanimalprotection.ca](mailto:MicheleHamers@worldanimalprotection.ca).

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michele Hamers", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Michèle Hamers

MSc, MRSB, EurProBiol

Wildlife Campaign Manager

**World Animal Protection**

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