

Motion requesting the Province of Ontario to commit to provincial regulations needed to restrict keeping of Non-Native (“exotic”) wild animals

Moved by: Councillor Mulcahy

Seconded by: Councillor Roy

That we recommend to Regional Council:

Whereas Ontario has more private non-native (“exotic”) wild animal keepers, roadside zoos, mobile zoos, wildlife exhibits and other captive wildlife operations than any other province;

Whereas the Province of Ontario has of yet not developed regulations to prohibit or restrict animal possession, breeding, or use of non-native (“exotic”) wild animals in captivity;

Whereas non-native (“exotic”) wild animals can pose very serious human health and safety risks, and attacks causing human injury and death have occurred in the province;

Whereas the keeping of non-native (“exotic”) wild animals can cause poor animal welfare and suffering, and poses risks to local environments and wildlife;

Whereas owners of non-native (“exotic”) wild animals can move from one community to another even after their operations have been shut down due to animal welfare or public health and safety concerns;

Whereas municipalities have struggled, often for months or years, to deal with nonnative (“exotic”) wild animal issues and have experienced substantive regulatory, administrative, enforcement and financial challenges;

Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) and the Municipal Law Enforcement Officers' Association (MLEOA) have indicated their support for World Animal Protection's campaign for provincial regulations of non-native (“exotic”) wild animals and roadside zoos in letters to the Ontario Solicitor General and Ontario Minister for Natural Resources and Forestry;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Regional Municipality of Durham hereby petitions the provincial government to implement provincial regulations to restrict the possession, breeding, and use of non-native (“exotic”) wild animals and license zoos in order to guarantee the fair and consistent application of policy throughout Ontario for the safety of Ontario's citizens and the non-native (“exotic”) wild animal population;

That a copy of this resolution will be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario (premier@ontario.ca), Ontario Solicitor General (michael.kerzner@ontario.ca), Ontario Minister for Natural Resources and Forestry (graydon.smith@ontario.ca) and the local MPPs, AMO (amo@amo.on.ca), AMCTO (advocacy@amcto.com), and MLEAO (mleo@mleoa.ca).