

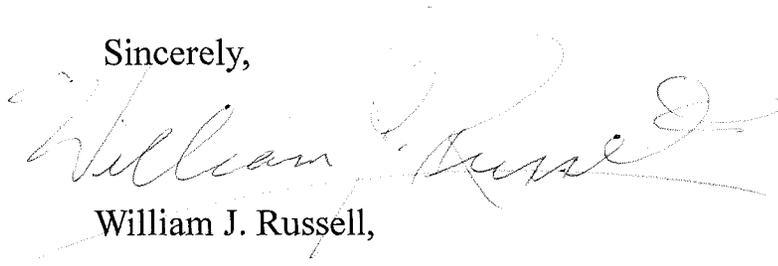
May 3, 2014.

To Hamilton City Hall Councillors, Staff, and
Planning Committee Members:

I read in The Hamilton Spectator today that little Ray's Reptile Zoo is asking for an exemption from the Hamilton Responsible Animal Ownership By-Law. These animals are wild and dangerous by nature, so why is the city council considering an exemption to this by-law? The by-law is there for a reason and I hope that Hamilton would be strengthening its animal control laws, not weakening them by allowing an exemption.

I am asking that you deny this request.

Sincerely,



William J. Russell,



L. Patricia Townson-Russell,

77 Stanley Avenue,
Hamilton, Ontario,
L8P 2L2,
905-522-9502.

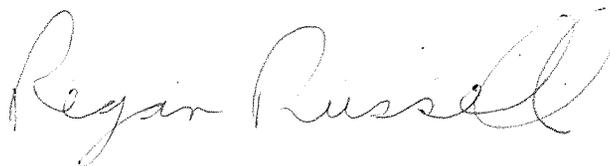
May 3, 2014.

To Hamilton City Hall Councillors,
Staff and Planning Committee Members:

After reading the article in The Hamilton Spectator today about Little Ray's Reptile Zoo requesting an exemption to the by-law, I have discovered many disturbing issues about this "Zoo". Little Ray's has a travelling side show transporting these wild animals for entertainment to children's parties, fairs, and other events. I saw photos of small children with large snakes draped over them and petting various reptiles. These are wild animals and I am concerned about public safety and the message our children are seeing.

As a former teacher I am requesting that Hamilton Council deny Little Ray's request for an exemption to our by-laws. These laws are in place for a reason and I hope Hamilton will show concern for children and animals by denying Little Ray's request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Regan Russell".

Regan Russell,
905-628-1430.

Robicheau, Vanessa

From: Liz Duchene
Sent: April-29-14 5:15 PM
To: Robicheau, Vanessa
Subject: Reptiles in Captivity

Mayor, Members of Council & Planning Committee c/o Vanessa Robicheau
City Clerk's Office, City Hall
71 Main Street W., 1st Floor
Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y5

Hello,

I encourage you to restrict the use of animals in zoos and exhibits, most especially travelling exhibits. At one time it was considered entertaining and educational to view dwarfs, elephant men and fat ladies in travelling side shows. Now travelling side shows restrict themselves to displaying hapless animals.

This is an anachronistic behaviour and does not serve the animals welfare. Their lives must be very stressful since they are deprived of their natural environment. This certainly does not serve an educational purpose to show children animals that are in captivity. Having watched the video "Blackfish" it is plain that captive whales and porpoises suffer terribly in captivity. It is certain this is true for reptiles and mammals alike. Showing them to our children only perpetuates this suffering. I would like to see Hamilton pass animal control laws more restrictive and not more lenient.

Kind regards,
Liz Duchene

Robicheau, Vanessa

Subject: RE: Little Ray's Reptile Zoo

From: skrekorian
Sent: April-29-14 6:34 PM
To: Robicheau, Vanessa
Subject: Little Ray's Reptile Zoo

Mayor, Members of Council & Planning Committee c/o Vanessa Robicheau
City Clerk's Office, City Hall
71 Main Street W., 1st Floor
Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y5

Dear Sirs:

I understand Little Ray's Reptile Zoo is applying for an exemption from the Hamilton *Responsible Animal Ownership By-law* that would allow them to keep animals currently prohibited by the City. This is unacceptable.

As a nurse, I know only too well that the safety of our children should be in the forefront of our minds. I am familiar with this "business" as it had a recent stop at my local UAW hall in St. Catharines. Little Ray's takes dangerous animals (like pythons) to homes for birthday party's and to halls for "exhibitions". This for-profit business exploits and stresses wild animals making their caged lives miserable and further puts children in unnecessary danger when set "free" to act as nature intended.

We need to keep an eye on businesses like Little Ray's for childrens' safety. Please do not allow them this exemption. It will only open the flood gates to more of the same: people who exploit animals for profit or those who want to keep wild, dangerous animals, as "pets" and fail to notify neighbours when they go "missing".

Sheila Krekorian RN
St. Catharines, Ont.



Mayor, Members of Council and Planning Committee
 c/o Vanessa Robicheau
 City Clerk's Office, City Hall
 71 Main St. West, 1st Floor
 Hamilton, ON
 L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor, Members of Council and Planning Committee

Re: Planning Committee Meeting & Exemption to *Hamilton Responsible Animal Ownership By-law*

I am writing on behalf of Niagara Action for Animals (NAfA). We have been advocating for animals for 25 years in and around the Niagara Region, and we are one of the main providers of help for animals & their families in the Niagara Region. We strive to educate the public about all animal related issues.

This letter is in respect to Little Ray's Reptile Zoo and their efforts to obtain an exemption to Hamilton's Responsible Animal Ownership By-law. Any exemption will just enhance the chances of Little Ray's travelling to surrounding communities with animals that are a danger to people. This past winter Little Ray's held a fee-paying function in St. Catharines; we were very distressed to see the conditions under which the animals were kept. They also travel to many other centres in southern Ontario and, I understand, further afield.

Little Ray's routinely travel with and display a variety of live exotic animals (such as snakes; both rattlers & pythons, alligators, amphibians, lemurs, turtles etc.) It is the opinion of advocates and organizations alike that businesses such as Little Ray's Reptile Zoo are not "animal rescues," by any standards. No credible rescue or sanctuary would purposely display and exploit their animals for profit, nor would they cause hardship to the very animals they seek to protect. Unfortunately, many groups who claim to "rescue" animals are actually facades organized to solicit donations or earn profits to fund their personal desire to keep exotic animals as 'pets'.

Exotic animals such as monkeys (this includes lemurs and marmosets) carry zoonotic diseases that are transferrable to humans. Moreover, unlike other animals, primates are susceptible to catching disease or illness from humans too. For example the Herpes Virus 1 is readily passed from humans to marmosets and in most cases can be fatal www.birdandexotic.co.za. At accredited rescues and sanctuaries, there are policies implemented to prohibit caregivers from entering the sanctuary grounds when they are sick, and there are always strict sanitation or safety protocols to prevent the spread of zoonotic diseases and/or physical danger to the caretakers.

94 Welland Avenue, St. Catharines, ON L2R 2N1
 Charitable #858683188RR0001 Telephone 905-682-4970

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If a "rescue" group is ignorant of these protocols and/or refuses to abide by them by bringing their animals out into the public, then the welfare of their animals is surely not a main priority. Such animals are wild, potentially dangerous and unpredictable and they do not belong in a retail store or on display to be handled by the public! Hamilton City Council's primary concern should be for the wellbeing and safety of your citizens. One might also wonder what impact Little Ray's might have on surrounding communities, such as Niagara, by displaying potentially dangerous animals.

According to their website, Little Ray's Reptile Zoo (Travelling Show) claims "Our passion for ecological preservation ...will make for an event you won't soon forget..."

From their website, it also appears that Ray's educational activities consist of live animal displays in public places and private functions for profit. I am suspicious of Ray's failure to be forthcoming about where their animals come from and just how they claim to be *advocating* and protecting these species on a larger scale.

Animal experts and species protectionists including Jane Goodall, Marc Beckoff, and even our local Sherri Delaney, director of Storybook Farm Primate Sanctuary, all agree that displaying exotic animals in public venues does nothing to educate the public about the plight of these animals or the protection of their habitats.

Common sense tells us that you DON'T take potentially dangerous, exotic animals to public functions to have people gawk at them or have cameras flashing in their faces. The only message then that is being portrayed to the public is that these animals are exploitable, trainable, manageable, and potentially good 'pets' that can be shown-off and used for profit. There are plenty of humane methods to educate the public without using live animals as display objects. The public should instead be encouraged to learn about animals by watching documentaries, reading literature, or observing the animals in their own natural habitats.

As a compassionate society, we should be sending messages and encouraging others to realize that animals should not be forced to comply with human demands. People who truly "love" animals understand that although it may be exciting and cute to see exotic animals in person, it is ultimately not in the animals' best interests to be put on display for human pleasure. This flies in the face of our emerging environmental ethic and the very things that children are now learning at school. We need to sacrifice our need for self-indulgence and express genuine concern for these innocent animals by not endorsing their subjection to such unnatural and stressful conditions.

In light of this information, I sincerely hope that you will consider carefully the granting of an exemption to Little Ray's Reptile Zoo. Hamilton could and should take a lead and not be more lenient about the showing of exotic animals, but more stringent.

Sincerely,
On behalf of Niagara Action for Animals

Catharine Ens-Hurwood

94 Welland Avenue, St. Catharines, ON L2R 2N1
Charitable #858683188RR0001 Telephone 905-682-4970

Robicheau, Vanessa

Subject: RE: Exemption for Little Ray's Reptile Zoo

From: Lori Sirianni
Sent: May-01-14 6:37 PM
To: Robicheau, Vanessa
Subject: Exemption for Little Ray's Reptile Zoo

Dear Ms. Robicheau,

I was born and raised here in Hamilton, and am writing to strongly oppose the possibility of Little Ray's Reptile Zoo being permitted to take their reptiles off-site, into daycare centers and nursing homes.

This idea is absolute folly; it's a clear public health and safety risk. Crocodiles, frogs, iguanas and snakes are wild animals and untameable. Not only will these animals be stressed from transport to and from these facilities and from public handling, they could bite children and the elderly who will come into contact with them.

Reptiles also commonly carry salmonella bacteria, which can be easily spread throughout daycare centers and nursing homes and make people very sick. Children and the elderly are the most vulnerable people in our society, both physically less able to defend themselves, and with weaker immune systems. Salmonella poisoning can be fatal to them. Even if people are encouraged to wash their hands after touching reptiles, careless handling and accidentally touching one's face before hand-washing can easily cause severe illness and even death. Permitting Little Ray's Reptile Zoo to bring reptiles into those facilities could result in a massive salmonella outbreak in a daycare, school or nursing home.

There is no need for the public to be exposed to these animals in any off-site area (or at all, frankly) in order to be educated about them. I truly cannot understand how this idea is even being considered, given the threats that displaying these animals will pose. I hope the City of Hamilton protects the public's health and safety by not permitting this. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lori Sirianni
Stoney Creek, ON

Robicheau, Vanessa

Subject: RE: Little Ray's Reptile Zoo

From: Crawford/Tysdale
Sent: May-05-14 11:00 AM
To: Robicheau, Vanessa
Subject: Little Ray's Reptile Zoo

Mayor, Members of Council & Planning Committee
c/o Vanessa Robicheau
City Clerk's Office, City Hall
71 Main Street W., 1st Floor
Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y5

Dear Mr. Mayor and Members of Council and Planning Committee:

I am writing to voice my objection to the request by Little Ray's Reptile Zoo for an exemption to the Responsible Animal Ownership By-Law.

We need individuals who will speak up for those who have no voice--in our society, these are children and animals. I believe we also need individuals who will speak for truth. I consider myself one of those people.

This by-law exists for a reason. It is simply wrong for exotic animals to be kept in homes and "zoos". The quality of life of an animal is poor when it is kept in a tupperware container or small cage and transported from place to place, and then subjected to "petting" and handling by children and others. Little Ray's Reptile Zoo has travelled to St. Catharines to do shows, parties and conferences. They claim to be a "sanctuary" but the owner is clearly profiting from these trips.

If Little Ray's obtains this exemption and takes these animals to other cities, how can the operations of this business be monitored for the health and safety of all involved? Worse yet, if you grant this exemption, you are setting a precedent and opening the doors to other animal exploitation businesses who will demand the same benefit. This would be a grave mistake in my opinion. We have an obligation to protect the animals' welfare and also the safety of the people paying to touch these animals.

There are many ways to educate children about animals without physically transporting these already-stressed animals in small containers.

I believe that animals should not be used for our entertainment and that they have a right to live in their natural environment, unmolested by man. We should be able to allow them that and find ways to still meet our needs. All that is required is the DESIRE and INTENT to find a way to live in harmony with nature.

Please take these points into thoughtful consideration when making your decision.

Sincerely,

Ann Crawford
Dundas, Ontario