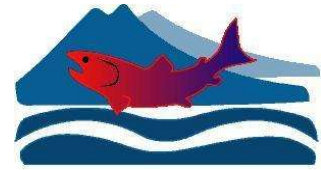


Port Moody Ecological Society

Raising Salmon and Environmental Awareness Since 1991



April 12, 2024

Members of City Council,

Re: Resolution from the May 9, 2023 Regular Council meeting

The Port Moody Ecological Society is a not-for-profit organization that operates the Noons Creek Hatchery and hosts the annual Fingerling Festival. On behalf of the board of directors, I am writing in regards to the resolution from the May 9, 2023 Regular Council meeting to not allow mobile petting zoos in City facilities.

The board wishes to put on record its unequivocal support of Wild Education, which is an exotic animal rescue center and the entity in question that led to the resolution. There is a profound difference between for-profit roaming pet zoos, and animal rescue centers, and that in this case to block Wild Education from our Festival would be an act that opposes the ideals and ethics of said resolution.

The issues with exotic animal exhibits center around unethical breeding, enclosure set-ups, and general profiting off of animal suffering, and we understand the move to put an end to shows of this type. However, Wild Education does not breed any of their animals. Rather they are all rescued or surrendered to the program. The enclosures are spacious, ensure privacy, and are not only well maintained but carefully curated to the needs of each individual animal.

To end the shows and presentations of the rescue center would cut off funding and result in most of these animals being euthanized, as they require complex and expensive caretaking that would be significantly more difficult without this income. Wild Education sometimes accepts over 15 animals a month, including lizards, snakes, and even two sugar gliders that were adopted by families that hadn't properly researched the pets that they were purchasing. While some of these animals might be able to find long-term homes if they are healthy and well, the majority may not, and are still deserving of a caring home and medical treatment where necessary.

Without Wild Education and similar rescue centers, the unfortunate reality is that families who have bought exotic animals and can no longer care for them will either illegally release them into an environment they are not prepared for or be forced to euthanize them.

We ask that Council bring forward this letter and make a decision to allow Wild Education to once again join us at the 2024 Fingerling Festival on May 4, where their animals are safe, well protected, and can provide valuable education for guests.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emma Dunbar', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Emma Dunbar, Vice President
Port Moody Ecological Society