

**The Corporation of the Town of Ajax
September 16, 2024**

Motion

Provincial Regulations Needed to Restrict Keeping of Non-Native ('Exotic') Wild Animals

Moved by: Regional Councillor Crawford
Seconded by: Councillor Henry

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;

AND 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;

AND 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;

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

AND 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;

AND WHEREAS municipalities have struggled, often for months or years, to deal with non-native ("exotic") wild animal issues and have experienced substantive regulatory, administrative, enforcement and financial challenges;

AND 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

1. Ajax Council calls on the provincial government to implement provincial regulations to restrict the possession, breeding, and use of non-native ("exotic") wild animals and license zoos 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; and
2. This resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, Ontario Solicitor General, Ontario Minister for Natural Resources and Forestry, Region of Durham MPPs, all Durham Region municipalities, AMO, AMCTO, and MLEOA.