



October 5, 2020

Mayor Stewart & Councillors
453 West 12th Ave
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4

Dear Mayor Stewart & Councillors,

Please accept this letter as Vancouver Humane Society's support for the motion put forward by Councillor's Swanson and Fry regarding "Prohibition of "No Pets" Clauses in Rental Contracts".

The housing crisis in Vancouver is amplified by the limitations placed on pets, including 'no pets' clauses, as well as limits on the weight, height, species, and other arbitrary factors. The Vancouver Humane Society is concerned about homelessness, particularly the risks associated with women's homelessness including exposure to violence (link <https://caeh.ca/state-of-womens-homelessness-canada/>), and is embarking on a new project seeking to help women and their companion animals (pets) meet the stipulations of landlords in order to decrease women's homelessness. This includes providing for parasite prevention or other medical requirements where mandated by the landlord.

For its own housing stock, the City of Vancouver can ensure the units allow pets and do not include arbitrary weight, height, and breed limitations.

The Vancouver Humane Society recognizes the importance of safe homes for all citizens, and supports the provincial adoption of legislation that models Ontario regarding considerations of past behaviours of animals, as well as considerations for allergens. We applaud the City of Vancouver for the consideration to bring this forward to the province and would be happy to engage with City to draft a motion for the UBCM.

The Vancouver Humane Society recognizes that the BC SPCA has conducted extensive research on this topic, available in their briefing note. (Hyperlink: <https://spca.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/BC-SPCA-Rental-Housing-Taskforce-submission-June-27-2018.pdf>)

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Amy Morris
Executive Director