

April 14, 2010

10-014

City of Brampton and Dogs' Owners reach Agreement

Brampton, ON: The City of Brampton and the Branco and Gaspar families - owners of the dogs known as Brittany and Rambo, respectively – are pleased to announce that they have agreed to a process to determine the status of the two dogs currently in the care of Animal Services. The agreement was approved by City Council at its meeting on April 14, 2010, and stipulates that both parties will agree to the final decision made about the dogs.

On January 13, 2010, Brittany and Rambo were taken in by City of Brampton Animal Services due to evidence indicating that the dogs are pit bulls under the Province of Ontario's *Dog Owners' Liability Act, 2005* (DOLA). Under this legislation, all pit bulls born after November 29, 2005 are considered illegal.

At the heart of the dispute between the City and the dogs' owners is whether the dogs are pit bulls. The provincial legislation is very clear about what can and cannot be done with pit bulls once they are in the care of Animal Services.

The City and the dogs' owners have agreed to resolve the dispute through a settlement that works toward a resolution within the parameters of DOLA and the City's Dog By-law. The agreement provides a process for determining whether the dogs are pit bulls under DOLA. An independent veterinarian, who has had no prior involvement in the matter, will conduct an examination of the dogs and prepare a report setting out his analysis and conclusion as to whether they are pit bulls.

If the veterinarian concludes that the dogs are pit bulls under DOLA, the City intends to hold the dogs for an agreed-upon period while the owners make arrangements to find a suitable home for them outside of the province, as the provincial legislation requires. If the veterinarian finds that the dogs are not pit bulls or is unable to reach a conclusion, the dogs will be immediately released to their owners under certain agreed-upon terms and conditions. This includes the stipulation that the dogs be designated and licensed as "potentially dangerous dogs", which requires that they be microchipped and sterilized, and that they are leashed and muzzled when out in public spaces.

During their stay at the City's Animal Shelter, Brittany and Rambo have received the highest level of care, which will continue while the veterinarian prepares his report. A decision on the matter is expected within the month.

About Brampton: The 11th largest city in Canada, Brampton has a successful, well-diversified economy and is home to more than 8,000 businesses. The City continues to retain a Triple 'A' credit rating by Standard & Poor's, reflecting its successful economy and debt-free position. Brampton celebrates its diverse population that represents people from more than 175 distinct ethnic backgrounds who speak more than 70 different languages. Offering more than 6,000 acres of parkland, Brampton takes pride in being known as the Flower City of Canada. Brampton has been designated as an International Safe Community by the World Health Organization. For more information visit www.brampton.ca

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