



Response to Voice for Animals Society 2021 Municipal Election Candidates Survey

September 30, 2021

1. Do you think wildlife belongs in the city? How do you think the City of Edmonton should deal with urban wildlife?

Wildlife and humans can coexist in an urban setting; in many ways, are we not in their territory? The City of Edmonton does not have the resources, nor is it their place to proactively “deal” with urban wildlife (i.e., trapping and killing). Instead, I think their current approach of awareness raising, tracking, monitoring and partnering in research helps to mitigate negative impact between wildlife and residential living.

2. Are you familiar with the “Trap, Neuter, Return” model of dealing with feral cat overpopulation? If so, do you think the City of Edmonton has a social responsibility to deal with this problem as well as the large number of stray and abandoned cats?

I am not overly familiar with this model, though I have adopted dogs through similar kinds of initiatives in other communities. I think the City can partner with not-for-profit organizations (i.e., humane society, your organization, etc.) to address the issue of overpopulation of stray and feral cats.

3. Where do you stand on the use of animals in entertainment (e.g., circus, rodeo, marine mammal shows etc.)?

We as a society need to enforce rigorous standards that ensure any animal in captivity is having their basic animal rights met.

4. Some far-ranging animals such as elephants and polar bears do poorly in zoos. Do you agree with banning these animals from being kept in zoos?

A well-run zoo is a centre of conservation, research, and advocacy to better society’s relationship with nature and animals; it is also a sanctuary to nurture, protect, and return endangered species to their natural habitat. This is the model of zoos that we should be aspiring to. If a zoo cannot achieve these qualities, is it truly a zoo at all or just a prison for animals?

5. Are you willing to stand up for the protection of our beautiful river valley, its flora and fauna, by preventing any more development or sale of river valley land?

Yes. I was on the Board of the North Saskatchewan River Valley Conservation Society for a number of years and advocated to prevent development on river valley land. I will continue to work towards protecting our natural areas and Ribbon of Green for generations to come.