

Haines Junction CAO

From: Angie Charlebois <motherlodecoaching@gmail.com>
Sent: November 9, 2021 3:23 PM
To: Haines Junction CAO
Subject: Update on the goats

Hi Dan,

I hope you're well.

I'm writing to provide an update on the goats and additional information that may be helpful to Council in making a decision.

On November 8, Dr. Michelle Thompson visited HJ and performed physical exams on the goats, tested the function of the microchips implanted in each one and collected samples for their annual M. Ovi testing.

The testing takes place in Sask. and the results are expected to be negative, as they have been negative in the past, and since the goats do not have contact with other goats (who could potentially infect them).

During this period, the goats are considered under "quarantine", which means that they can not come into contact with other goats or sheep, nor can they leave this property.

While she was on site, Dr. Thompson took photos of the secondary fencing that had been installed since her last visit. She gave her approval and determined that it's adequate. Note: the fencing methodology was suggested by Matt Larsen. I relayed my intention to fence the perimeter of my 3 lots to prevent coyotes (and bears and lynxes) from being able to use our property as a corridor between the horse field / trails behind the sewage lagoon and the Dezadeash River area. She is in support of this plan and is aware that I've discussed fencing options (temporary and permanent) with Matt Larsen of the Agriculture branch (Dept. of Env).

In regards to Gruff - the male goat: He is fully and successfully contained now, with the numerous improvements and reinforcements made to the fence and gate.

As stated in my initial letter, I've been seeking options to rehome Gruff. As I said during the public hearing, it's not an easy task and keeping goats in the Yukon, in accordance with all of the regulations, is not for the faint of heart. This particular goat would be best suited to a farm that seeks to use him as breeding stock as he's valuable and already M. Ovi negative/safe.

In speaking with Dr. Thompson, we identified a farm that would be suitable and farmers whom I know. They were not ready last year when I enquired but they are now. I'll be in contact with them this week and once their goats and Gruff are finished with this year's quarantine period, rehoming can be discussed.

I'd like to close by saying that I sincerely hope that I've demonstrated as strongly to Council as I have to Dr. Thompson and Matt Larsen, my ability and desire to provide a high level of care and responsibility to these animals. I chose to make the application for the Special Permit, out of a desire to follow proper process and abide by the municipal bylaw. For myself, I would not have chosen goats as a pet but as an animal lover, I see their qualities and truly enjoy them, therefore I've made the commitment - financial, time, care, regulatory, etc. to provide the best home that I can. I don't expect there to be more non-farmers looking to have goats as pets... I do not glamorize the undertaking whatsoever and I actively discourage others from having goats as pets because the responsibility is much more than having a cat or a dog.

Animal care is my hobby, it's my passion and I have been an advocate and rescuer my entire life and within the Yukon, I'm well-known for my involvement in animal welfare. Do I believe that approving my special permit will unleash a slew of applications for goats? No. Most people would not go to the lengths I do for animals. Period.

For the record, it takes a lot of time, effort and money, as well as the willingness to have many levels of government inspections, to care for goats. I want to send a clear message that I do not recommend goats as pets.

Thanks for reading this far and if this information would be helpful to Council, please feel free to forward it.

Take care,
Angie Charlebois