Council Direction:

The City’s “Responsible Animal Ownership By-Law” was passed on February 8, 2012.

Information:

The Planning Committee, on September 4, 2013 received a request for an exemption to the By-law to allow the display of crocodylia and other reptiles which are prohibited. In discussing the matter, reference was made to the recent tragedy in New Brunswick where two children were killed by a python.

Animal Services staff has reviewed its practice of allowing pet snakes belonging to the family “Boidae” and the species “Boa Constrictor” including the subspecies commonly known as "Red-Tailed Boa". The “Responsible Animal Ownership By-law” prohibits all venomous snakes as well as non-venomous snakes where either the female or male exceeds or will exceed three metres in length before or after maturity.

There are approximately ten subspecies of “Boa Constrictor”, all of which are non-venomous, but it has been found that several subspecies could exceed three metres in length such that they would be prohibited.
In view of the above, staff has changed its practice with respect to this species of snake, and as with any other prohibited snakes, an owner will be required to remove them from the City as will Animal Services staff for any taken in at the Shelter.

PP/dt