
From: Dave Richardson [mailto:drichardson@spokanehumanesociety.org]

Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2009 3:13 PM

Subject: FW: Rodenator

Sent electronically this afternoon-

April 14, 2009

President Shogan and City Council; President Lawton and Park Board members:

A large part of Spokane's appeal is the many parks and recreation areas scattered with flourishing plants and wildlife. The city's founding fathers, John Finch included, made sure that our community had many open spaces to protect and preserve wildlife.

Killing native wildlife is a temporary, unethical solution. It is at best an ineffective, short-term, reactionary response. We need our community government to invest resources into more humane, long-lasting solutions that preserve native habitats.

Ground squirrels have the natural ability to control their own reproduction. They will only produce offspring if there is sufficient food, water and shelter. If their food supply is limited, they will produce fewer offspring. Controlling the food supply is the least expensive and most effective way to control the population. The Spokane Humane Society urges the public not to feed wildlife in Finch Arboretum or other city parks.

As a humane organization, the Spokane Humane Society urges the Spokane Parks Department and City Council to reconsider how they address the welfare of wildlife in all city parks and to consider the use of non-lethal methods of control.

Humans continue to change the ecological balance and our clumsy attempts to manipulate the environment often produce catastrophic results for wildlife. We can resolve this issue with ground squirrels humanely. Is it our attempt to make this natural space void of wildlife?

The Spokane Parks officials course of action is cruel and short-sighted. As citizens of Spokane, we expect our elected officials to find a more humane solution.

The Spokane Humane Society urges the City Council to activate an Animal Welfare Advisory Council so that representatives from the community can help our leaders create humane responses to animal issues.

Respectfully on behalf of the membership of the Spokane Humane Society,

Dave Richardson-Executive Director

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