

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City Moves to Close Unlicensed Petting Zoo

Maple Ridge, BC: On Tuesday, December 3, the City of Maple Ridge served the operators of the Meadows Family Farm Petting Zoo with formal notice to close their unlicensed business.

Earlier in 2019, the business was found to be operating without a business license from the City of Maple Ridge or the necessary approvals from the Agricultural Land Commission and Fraser Health. Further, it was determined that there were structures added to the property that had not been constructed with permits and inspections as required by the City's Building and Fire Departments.

At the end of June, the operators were served with notification requiring them to cease operation of their unlicensed business. The City reached an agreement with the operators to take action to obtain the necessary approvals to operate the business legally and, in good faith, an interim business license was granted in mid-July.

The interim license was effective until October 1, 2019 providing the operators with the time to obtain all the necessary permits and approvals. Key to this was the requirement to ensure that all structures were code compliant and that the health and safety issues for prospective customers were fully addressed in a permanent fashion.

On October 8, 2019 City staff conducted an inspection of the facility and found that the business had not addressed the outstanding issues noted as part of the interim business license agreement, and had expanded the business with new structures.

As a result, the City of Maple Ridge has provided formal notice that the business must now cease operation. The business will remain closed until all outstanding issues have been addressed and the business conforms to all local and provincial regulations.

The City has taken this action to ensure the health and safety of our citizens and maintain the integrity of the business licensing process that applies fairly to all Maple Ridge businesses.