



**Animal Care Committee**

**MINUTES**  
**Mar 21, 2018**  
**Ontario Room**  
**5:30 PM – 7:30 PM**

<b><u>Members</u></b> Councillor Valerie Burke Janet Andrews, Vice-Chair Julie Sook-Man Chan Aviva Harari Sherry Klein Judy Postello Michelle Lustri Rhiannon Lane Shirley Lesch	<b><u>Regrets</u></b> Denielle Duncan, Chair Dr. Esther Attard Kar Pak Ng
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<b><u>Staff</u></b> Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator
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<b><u>Guests and Members of the Public</u></b> Terri Daniels
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**Call to Order:** The Animal Care Committee convened at 5:35 p.m. on Wednesday, March 21, 2018, with Janet Andrews, presiding as Chair.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>1. Approval of the February 21, 2017 Animal Care Committee meeting minutes</b>	<p>The following minor amendments was made to the February 21, 2017 meeting minutes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It was clarified that the Farm Animal Sanctuary is run by a former farmer rather than rancher.</li></ul> <p>Moved by Rhiannon Lane Seconded by Sherry Klein</p> <p>That the February 21, 2018 Animal Care Committee Minutes be approved, as amended.</p>	

	CARRIED	
<b>2. Business arising from the Minutes</b>	<p>Review of Action items:</p> <p><u>Corrections to Online Pet Licence Form:</u>          Christy Lehman will look into correcting the pet licence form to say the funds go to Animal Services instead of the Animal Care Committee.</p> <p><u>Barn Fires:</u>          It was noted that a draft brochure has been created on Barn Fire Awareness and that it will be circulated for Committee's feedback.          Committee requested that Dave Decker, Fire Chief and Adam Grant, Deputy Fire Chief be invited to the next meeting.          The Committee would like to educate the public regarding barn fires.</p> <p><u>Resignation of Committee Member:</u>          It was noted that Kaushi Chawla has resigned from the committee, but will support the committee at events from time to time.</p> <p><u>Sanctuary Tour</u>          It was noted that Farm Animal sanctuary tour will take place on a Saturday in May or June at 2:00 pm. The Committee expressed interest in attending the tour.</p> <p><u>Ecological Corridors:</u>          It was noted that a report on the Ecological Corridors will be brought forward to the Development Services Committee soon.</p> <p>There was a request to check whether the Committee could be notified on this this matter.</p> <p><u>2017 Committee Accomplishments</u>          Moved by Rhiannon Lane          Seconded by Shirley Lesch</p> <p>That the Animal Care Committee approve the 2017 Committee Accomplishments and that it be brought forward to Council (see Appendix A).          Carried</p> <p><u>Coyote Awareness Week</u></p>	<p>Ensure there is disclaimer on the Animal Licence form that says the funds go to Animal Services – Christy Lehman</p> <p>Terri Daniels to organize</p> <p>Laura Gold to check whether committee could be notified on Ecological Corridors</p>

	<p>Christy Lehman reported that the City will be holding a conference at the Markham Civic Centre to educate the public during Coyote Awareness Week. Mayor and Council and staff will be invited to the seminar. The conference will also be live streamed.</p> <p>It was noted that the Shades of Hope will be holding another wildlife seminar in Thornhill. It will probably be held on evening or weekend.</p>	
<p><b>3. Animal Control Program Update</b></p>	<p>a. <u>Cat Adoption and Education Centre</u> Christy Lehman reported that there have been 33 cat adoptions in 2018 and 482 cat adoptions to date.</p> <p>It was noted that the City will be hosting a Pet First Aid Course during Emergency Preparedness Week at the Cat Adoption and Education Centre. The public can sign up to participate in the course for a small fee.</p> <p>A Committee Member suggested reaching out to the Seneca Fire Prevention program for volunteers.</p> <p>b. <u>Barn Cat Program:</u> It was noted that the Barn Cat Program is going well. The OSPCA decides which cats are sent to a barn, noting elderly cats and friendly cats would not be sent to a barn. The barns are also heated, and vetted prior to sending any cats to the barn.</p> <p>There was a question on whether there are any statistics on the outcome of the cats being sent to the barns. It was reported that there has been some follow up on the success of the program, noting some of the cats have ended up being house cats.</p> <p>c. <u>OSPCA Contract</u> Christy Lehman reported that the City is not required to go out to market for another two years for its animal control contract. The City will continue its contract with the OSPCA for another two years. A review of the contract will be done next year.</p> <p>d. <u>Wildlife Inventory Report</u> It was noted that the Wildlife Inventory Report will go to the General Committee on April 9, 2018. The report identifies some gaps, which staff are working on closing.</p>	

	<p>e. <u>By-law Review:</u></p> <p>The revisions to the Animal Control By-Law is targeted to be brought forward to the General Committee in May 2018.</p> <p>f. <u>Turtle Fence:</u></p> <p>It was noted that the Turtle Fence concept was not approved. Instead, some residents will monitor the turtles that lay eggs on their property and the City will create nesting sites in hope that the turtles will not be inclined to lay their eggs at the side of the road. It was noted that there are already signs warning drivers to beware of turtles and that the City is also thinking of adding “No Parking” signs where the turtles lay their eggs.</p>	
<b>4. Events</b>	<p>a. Fundraising</p> <p><u>Sale with Pet Valu and Holiday Bazar</u></p> <p>Janet Andrews advised that the Committee will be holding a sale of new and gently used items in partnership with Pet Valu. The event will take place at the Whole Foods Plaza on June 9, 2018, from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. The Committee suggested inviting Councillor Don Hamilton, the OSPCA and other Committees to participate in the event.</p> <p>The Committee is also planning to hold a holiday bazar at the Thornhill Community Centre in November. The event could be held at the same time as the photos with Santa. Christy Lehman was asked to look into whether this is possible.</p> <p>Councillor Burke noted that the Committee should avoid holding the sale the same week as the Heintzman House Art Sale.</p> <p>Four leads are required to run these events (two for each event). Denielle Duncan has volunteered to be one of the leads for the spring event, but three more leads are needed to lead the spring and fall events.</p> <p>Furhait Kashmiri has offered to organize another Crispy Crème donut sale as a fundraising event. We can raise from \$5 to \$7 per dozen from the sale of the donuts. The Committee discussed if it would like to have Crispy Crème donuts for sale at its fundraising events. The Committee</p>	<p>Christy to contact the community Centre.</p> <p>Committee members to advise Furhait how many dozens of donuts they want to order.</p>

	<p>noted that some locations would not permit the sale of the donuts but will keep this in mind when planning events.</p> <p>It was noted that the Committee needs more Animal Care Committee business cards. Laura Gold will look into the Committee's inquiry.</p> <p>The Committee discussed reaching out to stores to get jam jars donated. There was a question on whether the letter asking for donations for jam jars needs to be put on City of Markham letterhead. Laura Gold advised that she would look into this inquiry and report back to the Committee.</p> <p>Christy Lehman was requested to provide the Committee with adoption pamphlets that it can distribute at events at the next meeting.</p> <p><u>Sub-committee for literature:</u>  The Committee agreed to form a Sub-Committee to manage the Committee's literature. About 6 people are required to be on the Sub-Committee. Julie Sook-Man Chan will Chair the Sub-Committee. It will first focus on creating literature on squirrels, geese and raccoons.</p> <p><u>Mock up Cheque</u>  It was suggested that Committee also have a mockup of a cheque the next time it presents a donation to Council for the Cat Adoption and Education Centre.</p> <p>b. Events Scheduled for the Remainder of the Year</p> <p><u>Earth Day Event</u>  There was a discussion on the Earth Day event on April 21, 2018. Christy Lehman confirmed that she will provide brochures on Coyote Awareness Program that the Committee can circulate at the event.</p> <p><u>Thornhill Village Festival</u>  It was noted that the Thornhill Village Festival will be held in Vaughan this year, as it is becoming increasingly difficult to close down Yonge street for the festival.</p> <p>The Committee decided not to participate in this event this year.</p> <p><u>Stiver Mill Farmer's Market</u>  It was noted that one more volunteer is needed to help out with the afternoon shift at the Stiver Mill Farmer's Market.</p>	<p>Look into printing more Animal Care Committee cards for the Committee.</p> <p>Laura to clarify whether the letter seeking donation of jam jars needs to be printed on City of Markham letterhead.</p> <p>Christy Lehman to bring pamphlets for June events to the next meeting</p>
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<b>5. New Business</b>	<u>Fireworks</u> There was a question on whether residents are being advised to leave their dogs at home during big events like Canada Day with firecrackers. Councillor Burke suggested talking to Councillor Collucci about this matter.	
<b>6. Date of Next Meeting</b>	April 18, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the Ontario Room.	
<b>7. Adjournment</b>	The Animal Care Committee meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.	

## **Appendix A**

### **2017 Animal Care Committee Summary of Activities**

#### **Committee Mandate:**

The Animal Care Committee's mandate is to develop a community-driven model for improving animal welfare in Markham and report its findings back to the General Committee.

#### **2017 Activities:**

- heard deputation - Noelle Slater and Susan Ralph made a verbal presentation to the Animal Care Committee on a proposal to open a cat lounge in the city of Markham
- provided advice to council on whether restricted hedgehogs should remain on the restricted list
- requested the City to proclaim the following days - Feral Cat Day (Oct 16); Be Kind to Animals Week (first week of May), Animal Health Week (Oct 1-7), National Wildlife Week (week of April 5)
- toured the Shades of Hope Facility (the City's wildlife services provider)
- heard deputation - Justin Drew spoke to the Committee concerning vehicles running over geese and other waterfowl in the Birchmount Road and Highway 7 area where there are two large ponds on either side of Birchmount Road. As a result, the City installed two goose crossing signs on Birchmount to make drivers aware of the geese and hopefully slow cars down.
- provided input on an update provided by Linda Irvine, Manager of Parks and Open Space Development on the Off Leash Dog Park
- personally provided information to individual Council Members and staff on various animal issues
- passed a motion requesting Council to enact a bylaw prohibiting the sale of domestic animals in pet stores unless the animals are provided by recognised shelters and rescue groups
- raised funds at 7 community events through public donations and the sale of donated goods, jams, preserves and salsas (all made by the committee)
- attended the Town Hall Meeting on turtle mortality and possible fencing in recommended areas and fully supported the fencing suggested
- anticipated in a total of 11 outreach and/or community events
- answered questions and provided take home literature on stray cats, licensing, adoptions and wildlife
- promoted all of Markham's animal services, programs and events on our own social media accounts and emails through our personal contacts and animal rescue links

- personally donated supplies and equipment to Shades of Hope (Markham's Wildlife Service Provider) and the OSPCA

### **Community Events:**

- Booth at Markham's Sustainability Earth Day event, speaking with 54 people. Concerns, questions and complaints included: wanted more green spaces in the City; the need for more and better dog parks; and 31 residents wanted information on skunks and coyotes. We also received complaints about the OSPCA and local wildlife removal companies.
- Markham Farmer's Market Opening Day - Had a community booth to promote licensing and Markham adoptions (created a large adoption board with photos of all animals available for adoption from the OSPCA). Very positive comments on our table presentation and how we spoke to the public from both the public and other vendors. Concerns and questions from this event were mainly about wildlife (coyotes), stray cats and TNR in Markham.
- Unionville Festival - Had a full day community booth and a marching contingent with community members and dogs for the parade. Spoke to the public on adoptions and wildlife and the need for more wildlife areas and less development. Once again we had our large adoption photo board which was very popular and had several people interested in adopting viewed animals.
- Markham Music Festival - Had a full day community booth, speaking with 50+ people about licensing, animal bylaws, dog parks and wildlife. Fundraised very heavily at this busy event. We also had some questions on environmental issues and those were directed to the Markham Contact Centre.
- Stiver Mill/Unionville Farmer's Market Opener - We had a full day booth and promoted all of Markham's animal services, the CAEC and adoptions. We sold jams and preserves and donated items. Public questions concerned skunks, coyotes, dog parks and residents asking why Markham doesn't have its own animal shelter. We also received three complaints on the OSPCA. Two different residents also brought up the problem of deer mortality and told us that Markham doesn't seem to care for its wildlife.
- Stiver Mill/Unionville Farmer's Market Doggy Day - We participated in this special day by having a booth promoting the adoptions at the CAEC, fundraising, handed out literature on licenses, wildlife and animal issues and answered questions about the same. We also addressed a complaint about Markham's dog park location and the hydro wires being there, we gave the resident the contact centre's phone number so she could report her issue to the City. We also had three residents asking about a shelter in Markham that would include dogs and other animals, not just cats. We also provided a prize for the Dog contests happening that day.
- Thornhill Village Festival – Had a community table and fundraised by selling preserves and handed out literature on wildlife and CAEC hours and info. Large adoption board was again very popular and we had many inquiries about adoptable animals.



- Markham Santa Claus Parade - Committee members, friends and dogs marched and carried stuffed animals, the Markham Animal Care Committee banner, adoption signs and pulled a large decorated wagon promoting adoptions. We had invited the CAEC staff to join us and they walked with us carrying the CAEC banner.
- Unionville Old Thyme Christmas Parade - Numerous members of the committee and friends walked with their dogs while festively dressed. We also carried the Markham Animal Care Committee banner, signs promoting adoptions and pulled a fully decorated wagon with lights and large stuffed cats and dogs. The crowd received us very well and the photos were picked up in the local press.