

Cat Adoption and Education Centre Update

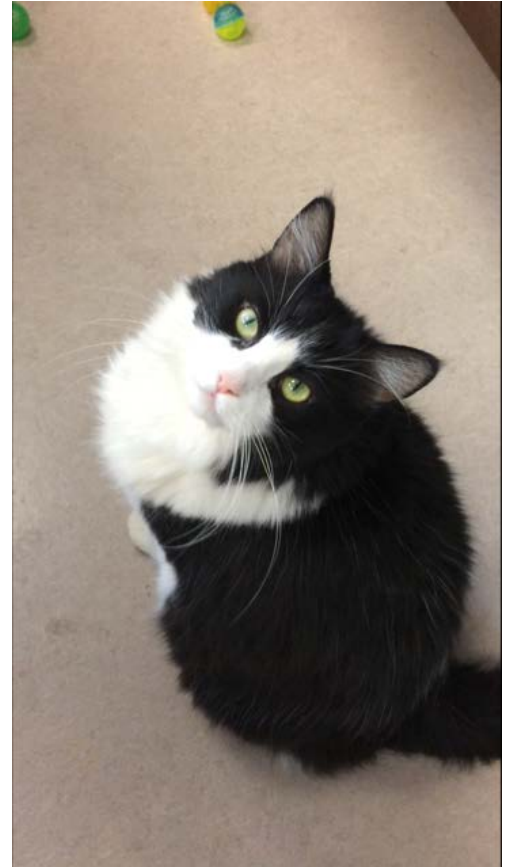
**Presentation to General Committee
January 22nd, 2018
Christy Lehman**

Acting Licensing & Animal Services Supervisor



Presentation Overview

- Background
- Adoptions to Date
- Volunteers
- Reading Therapy Program
- Events
- Summer Camp
- Results of Implementation
- Animal Care Committee Donation Presentation
- What's Next



Background

- Opened on January 13th, 2016
- Implemented to:
 - Reduce Markham's cat euthanasia rate by providing a convenient location for cat adoption within Markham
 - Increase pet education, pet ownership awareness and wildlife awareness
- CAEC is open: Monday to Wednesday 12pm-6pm
Thursday & Friday 11am-6pm
Saturday & Sunday 12pm-4pm



CAEC Adoptions

- Original adoption goal was 200 adoptions per year
- 2016: 228 adoptions
- 2017: 220 adoptions
- Since its opening the Centre has found homes for a total of 448 cats
- Approximately 145 stray cats are found in Markham per year.
- Strong social media presence on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter



CAEC Volunteers

- Volunteers are essential in the success of the CAEC
- Currently the Volunteer Roster of 20 is full and there is a waiting list
- They assist with:
 - Cleaning/everyday care of the cats
 - Socialization of cats
 - Event preparation assistance and execution
 - Program support
- In 2016, volunteers contributed 845 hours of work
- In 2017, volunteers contributed 1283.5 hours of work



Reading Therapy

- Reading therapy is beneficial for both humans and cats
- Provides socialization to cats
- Develops reading skills in kids as cats do not judge
- Proven to reduce stress/anxiety
- Sessions are scheduled every Tuesday and Friday between 4pm-5pm(20 minute intervals)
- In 2016: 29 sessions completed
- In 2017: 81 sessions completed



CAEC Events

- Hosted 12 events in 2016 and 2017
- Events included Open Houses, Pet Photos for Halloween and Christmas, Emergency Preparedness Week, Cupcake Day Fundraiser, Wildlife Seminar, and Be Kind to Animals Week.
- Events involved collaboration with York Regional Police Canine Unit, OSPCA Educational Department, Shades of Hope, Speaking of Wildlife, and various City Departments
- Events promoted responsible pet ownership and provided education/public outreach on domestic animals and wildlife



CAEC Involvement in Summer Camp

- Partnered with the Recreation Department in 2016 and 2017
- Junior Animal and Nature Camp Program
- 40 children aged 4-6 attended each camp (FULLY BOOKED each time!)
- Presentations were given by the YRP Canine Unit, Speaking of Wildlife, and OSPCA Education Unit
- Children were given a tour of the CAEC, completed cat themed activities and crafts, were educated on pet ownership, pet behaviours, etc.



CAEC Results

- Adoption rates have increased beyond our expectations
- Euthanasia rates reduced by 20% since 2016 opening
- In 2014, Markham's cat euthanasia rate was 37%, in 2017 it was 17% (in 2016 the Canadian national average was 43%)



Animal Care Committee (ACC)

- Markham's Animal Care Committee has always been an advocate of the CAEC and was instrumental in its establishment
- The ACC initially donated \$30,000 towards the start up costs associated with the CAEC
- ACC members are here today to present a cheque to the City in the amount of \$2,500.00, that they have fundraised to support the operating costs of the CAEC



What's Next

- Continue to increase educational and outreach efforts
- Build on and surpass 2017's adoption levels (220 cats)
- Continue to recruit new members for our volunteer roster
- Investigate sponsorship opportunities with local businesses
- Continue to collaborate with the City's animal service partners; the OSPCA and Shades of Hope to continue to enhance our services in Markham



Thank you for your Support!

