

**Animal Care Committee**  
**February 15, 2017**  
**Ontario Room**  
**5:30 PM – 7:30 PM**

<p><b><u>Members</u></b></p> <p>Denielle Duncan, Chair  Terri Daniels, Vice-Chair  Janet Andrews  Esther Attard  Councillor Valerie Burke  Julie Sook-Man Chan  Kaushik Chawla  Sherry Klein  Rhiannon Lane  Michelle Lustri  Kar Pak Ng</p>	<p><b><u>Regrets</u></b></p> <p>Shirley Lesch</p>
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**Staff**

Christy Lehman, Licensing & Animal Services Coordinator  
John Britto, Committee Secretary (PT)

**Guests and Members of the Public**

Furhail Kashmiri  
Bernice Royce  
Noella Slater and Susan Ralph, Private Pet Café (proposed)

<b>Item</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>1. Call to Order</b>	The Animal Care Committee convened at 5:37 p.m. with Denielle Duncan presiding as Chair	
<b>2. Private Cat Cafe</b>	<p>Noella Slater and Susan Ralph, Volunteers at the Markham PetSmart made a verbal presentation to the Animal Care Advisory Committee on a proposal to open a cat lounge in the City of Markham, similar to the cat cafes started in Taiwan and Japan. The proposed cat lounge is based on a “fee for entrance” model allowing for self-serve drinks and pre-packaged food items. The goal is to socialize cats contributing to their adoptability while living in a safe and comfortable environment, and providing a saleable “product” – time with the cats.</p> <p>The proposed cat lounge will employ current volunteers from PetSmart who have shown their reliability and ability over many months, and who are unemployed or underemployed. Susan and Noella will manage the cat lounge, with 3 to 4 key holders and 6 to 8 cleaners. An 80-hour week is projected, with 3 individuals available at the cat lounge most of the time. Over 50 volunteers have pledged their expertise to open as well as contribute on an ongoing basis to the cat lounge. The proponents currently have construction, design, vets, vet techs, ACA's, accountants, social media, photography and cat care. Marketing will be finalized closer to when the cat lounge is ready to open.</p>	

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	<p>Many cats are languishing in foster homes, who were deemed not social enough for the cage environment of the store, and left to live in foster, or who are not yet ready to be on display. These cats need to be worked with by volunteers, but also able to approach people as they feel comfortable. It is vital that these cats have safe spaces to live in, but also that disease is controlled, that ill cats are removed to an isolation area for treatment and recovery, and that testing is done for the major risks (FIV and FeLV) upon entrance (quarantine intakes for testing and vaccines). Cats can be moved to the adoption centre at PetSmart when appropriate, but can return if stressed or needing a break. The right mix of cats at PetSmart contributes to adoption turnover – a balance of ages as well as social needs.</p> <p>At the current time, no rescue has been approached to work with. After zoning and by-law approvals are obtained, the proponents intend to approach the current rescue they are involved with, and if appropriate, other rescues can be approached to find a suitable partner. The current store management (at PetSmart) and volunteers are loyal to the proponents.</p> <p>The Committee advised the proponents about obtaining appropriate business insurance. In response to a question from a committee member, Noella advised that an online zoning application has been filed with the City's Planning Department.</p> <p>In response to a question from a committee member, Christy Lehman, Licensing &amp; Animal Services Coordinator advised that kennels are permitted in the City but they are site-specific, however, the Zoning Department will need to be contacted to check the zoning by-law for site specific uses. Christy further advised that the proponents meet with Brad Roberts, Zoning Supervisor to seek assistance with zoning matters.</p> <p>Councillor Valerie Burke suggested that the proponents meet with the local Ward Councillor and also be prepared to make a presentation to General Committee.</p> <p>Moved by: Terri Daniels Seconded by: Janet Andrews</p> <p>That the presentation by Noella Slater and Susan Ralph, Volunteers at the Markham PetSmart, with respect to a proposal to open a cat lounge in the City of Markham be received.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>	
3. Minutes	<p>The following amendments were made to the January 18, 2017, minutes of the Animal Care Committee:</p> <p>Page 2, Item 4. <b>Review of Action Items from the Previous Minutes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Third line of the last paragraph – spelling of the word practises to be corrected to “practices”; and</li> </ul> <p>Page 4, Item E. <b>OSPCA Statistics</b></p>	

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	<p>The word yearend be replaced with “year-end”.</p> <p>Page 4, Item <b>6. Events</b> Michelle’s last name be corrected to “Lustri”</p> <p>Moved by: Janet Andrews Seconded by: Michelle Lustri</p> <p>That the minutes of the January 18, 2017 meeting of the Animal Care Committee meeting be approved, as amended.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>	
<p><b>4. Business arising from the minutes</b></p>	<p>The Committee suggested that the old format of the minutes be reverted to in order to effectively capture the Action Items.</p> <p>The Committee reviewed the action items from the previous meeting. The following updates were provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Terri Daniels advised that she sent the link to the committee members of the television show My Cat From Hell (Sante D’Or Finds New Life) that helped improve the interior design of the small cat adoption centre, which enabled the centre to increase its adoption rate by more than 25%. Christy Lehman, Licensing &amp; Animal Services Coordinator advised that the link did not work for her. Terri Daniels advised that she would re-send the link to Christy.</li> <li>• Terri Daniels advised that she contacted the Town of Georgina with respect to a letter from the City of Markham supporting Town of Georgina’s Trap Neuter and Release (TNR) program. The Town of Georgina has advised to keep this matter on hold. Christy Lehman, Licensing &amp; Animal Services Coordinator advised that the Town of Georgina is reassessing their proposal for a TNR program in the Town.</li> <li>• Julie Sook-Man Chan advised that she was unable to attend the Town of Richmond Hill’s Committee of the Whole meeting on January 23, 2017, when the matter with respect to the proposed banning of the sale of pets through pet stores in the Town of Richmond Hill was considered. Christy Lehman, Licensing &amp; Animal Services Coordinator advised that it is expected that further information with respect to this matter is likely to be received by the City of Markham by May 1, 2017. The Committee discussed the merits of supporting the banning of sale of pets through pet stores in the City of Markham.</li> </ul>	<p>Terri Daniels to re-send link of television show to Christy Lehman</p>
<p><b>5. Animal Control Program Update</b></p>	<p>a. <u>Cat Adoption &amp; Education Centre</u></p> <p>Christy Lehman, Licensing &amp; Animal Services Coordinator advised that 251 cat adoptions were done.</p> <p>Christy advised that she has finalized the poster for the CAEC’s 1<sup>st</sup> birthday celebrations scheduled to be held at the Markham Library at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 14, 2017, which will feature a movie night. Various cat-themed programs have been planned for the event. The Mayor has been contacted to find out if he is interested in attending. Christy suggested that Councillor</p>	<p>Christy to distribute poster to Committee</p>

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	<p>Valerie Burke may want to say a few words at the event.</p> <p>Christy further advised that she is planning to do a media blast for this event.</p> <p>b. <u>Barn Cat Program</u></p> <p>No update was provided.</p> <p>c. <u>Barn Cats and Fundraising for the Cat Adoption &amp; Education Centre</u></p> <p>No update was provided.</p>	<p>Christy to do a media blast for the CAEC 1<sup>st</sup> birthday celebrations.</p>
<p><b>6. Events</b></p>	<p><u>Fundraising</u></p> <p>No update was provided.</p>	
<p><b>7. New Business</b></p>	<p>a. <u>Wildlife Contract</u></p> <p>Christy Lehman, Licensing &amp; Animal Services Coordinator advised that the City's Wildlife Contract cannot be discussed at this time. Janet Andrews suggested that consideration of this matter be deferred to the March Animal Care Committee meeting.</p> <p>b. <u>Election of new Chair and Vice-Chair</u></p> <p>Denielle Duncan, Chair advised that she has received an email from one committee member who suggested deferring this matter to the March Animal Care Committee meeting. This member also inquired if any members had expressed interest in contesting the elections.</p> <p>Christy Lehman, Licensing &amp; Animal Services Coordinator advised that there was no need to elect a new Chair and Vice-Chair. Denielle Duncan, Chair inquired whether the Committee can continue with the existing Chair and Vice-Chair. John Britto, Committee Secretary (PT) advised that it would be better if clarification on this matter was sought from the City Clerk's Office.</p> <p>Terri Daniels advised that she may be moving sometime during this year, and the Committee may want to consider appointing a new Vice-Chair. Christy Lehman, Licensing &amp; Animal Services Coordinator advised that this matter could be considered at the appropriate time.</p> <p>c. <u>Deer and Coyotes</u></p> <p>Terri Daniels, Vice Chair advised that she received an email from Councillor Hamilton expressing concerns about deer and coyotes in the 407/Rouge Valley Park area in Markham. Residents are concerned about human/wildlife conflicts and are scared of their pets being attacked by coyotes. Terri suggested that the committee explore the feasibility of engaging a wildlife specialist dealing with human/animal conflict in an attempt to organize a public information evening on this issue.</p> <p>Christy Lehman, Licensing &amp; Animal Services Coordinator advised that a resident contacted her expressing concerns about</p>	<p>Wildlife Contract deferred to March meeting.</p> <p>Denielle Duncan to email committee members wrt Chair, Vice-Chair and Treasurer positions.</p> <p>Denielle Duncan to contact City Clerk's Office to confirm if new Chair and Vice-Chair need to be elected.</p>

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	<p>the welfare of the deer in this area. He also advised Christy that he has been feeding the deer, which is a huge issue by itself. OSPCA officers were sent to investigate who advised that there was evidence of the deer in the area. Christy advised that she advised the resident to stop feeding the deer. The deer are there because they are getting fed, and the deer in turn are food for the coyotes. Staff have included information on the EID Board on what to do if one encounters coyotes.</p> <p>Christy further advised that when the Wildlife Contract is finalized, public education sessions will be organized on this issue. One such session was organized in April 2016, and it is proposed to organize another session in April 2017.</p> <p>In response to a question from a committee member, Christy Lehman, Licensing &amp; Animal Services Coordinator advised that the Animal Control by-law needs to be updated to include deterrents for residents feeding wildlife.</p> <p>Councillor Valerie Burke suggested installing signs educating residents about refraining from feeding wildlife. Information could also be provided by councillors in their newsletters.</p>	Christy to email invites to the education session.
	<p>d. <u>Turtle Fencing</u></p> <p>Councillor Valerie Burke advised that the Budget Committee accepted her budget request to install fencing and other measures to protect turtles from being hit by cars throughout specific turtle crossing areas in the City. The Budget Committee recommended funding for turtle fencing, signage, education and measure to protect wildlife.</p>	
	<p>e. <u>Spiked/Decorative fencing</u></p> <p>Councillor Valerie Burke advised that along the East Don River in her Ward, she has noticed a spiked fence and expressed concerns about deer potentially getting impaled in such a fence. Christy Lehman, Licensing &amp; Animal Services Coordinator advised that there is no city by-law to regulate types of materials that can be used for residential fences. Janet Andrews was of the opinion that the City could regulate the use of particular fencing materials under the Fence By-law.</p>	Christy to follow-up with respect to types of materials that can be used for residential fences.
	<p>f. <u>Pygmy hedgehogs</u></p> <p>Christy Lehman, Licensing &amp; Animal Services Coordinator advised that Council has been approached by a 10-year old girl who would like to purchase a pet pygmy hedge hog. This matter was considered at the February 6, 2017, General Committee meeting when a motion moved by Councillor Campbell and seconded by Councillor Hamilton requesting staff to investigate if the ban to own a pygmy hedgehog can be eliminated. The committee discussed this matter at length and expressed concerns with respect to owning a pet pygmy hedgehog. Kar Pak Ng volunteered to research reasons for not owning a pet pygmy hedgehog.</p> <p>Moved by: Janet Andrews Seonded by: Sherry Klien</p> <p>The Animal Care Advisory Committee will provide staff with reasons</p>	Kar Pak Ng to research reasons for not owning a pet pygmy hedgehog.

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Item	Discussion	Action
	why the Committee believes that the hedge hog should not be eliminated from the list of prohibited animals in the City's Animal Care by-law  CARRIED	
<b>8. Adjournment</b>	The Animal Care Committee meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.	