

**Animal Care Committee
December 14, 2016
Ontario Room
5:30 PM – 7:30 PM**

<p><u>Members</u> Councillor Valerie Burke Esther Attard Denielle Duncan, Chair Terri Daniels, Vice-Chair Rhiannon Lane Michelle Lustri Julie Sook-Man Chan</p> <p><u>Staff</u> Christopher Alexander, Supervisor of Licensing & Standards Christy Lehman, Licensing & Animal Services Coordinator Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator</p>	<p><u>Regrets</u> Pushprup Brar Kaushik Chawla Furhait Kashmiri Shirley Lesch</p>
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The Animal Care Committee convened at 5:32 pm with Denielle Duncan presiding as Chair.

1. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by Michelle Lustri
Seconded by Rhiannon Lane

The November 16, 2016, Animal Care Committee Minutes be approved as presented.

Carried

2. Business Arising from the Minutes

Christy Lehman advised that the City is looking at the licensing of circuses rather than the banning of circuses. She will report back on the matter in 2017. She also noted that all Committee correspondence has to go through Council.

3. Confidential Matter

The Animal Care Committee went in-camera at 5:58 p.m.

Moved by Terri Daniels

Seconded by Rhiannon Lane

That, in accordance with Section 239 (2) (b) of the Municipal Act the Animal Care Committee of Markham resolve into an in-camera session to discuss the following confidential matter:

- 1) A personal matter about an identifiable individual.

CARRIED

Moved by Councillor Valerie Burke

Seconded by Terri Daniels

That the Animal Care Committee rise from an in-camera session (6:00 p.m.)

CARRIED

4. Animal Control Update

- a. Cat Adoption and Education Centre

Christy Lehman reported that the City met its adoption goal and adopted out 216 cats in 2016. The Pet Photos with Santa event was well received. One resident complained about having the pets in the Community Centre, but the complaint was handled by explaining the measures that were taken to protect residents against allergens. There was also a cat sale held in December.

- b. Barn and Cat Program

Christy Lehman reported that Barn and Cat Program was a success in 2016. She did not have any recent reports from the OSPCA on the program, as the staff person managing the program only works part time.

5. Events

- a. Fundraising

The Committee participated in the Main Street Unionville and Main Street Markham Christmas parades. Members were only able to bring out a few dogs this year. The OSPCA hopes to participate in the event next year.

The Committee submitted to the Clerk \$75 to be deposited into the Animal Care Committee Account. The funds were raised at events the Committee attended. Christy

Lehman reported that \$2,800 was transferred back into the Animal Care Committee Account. The City will also be providing the Committee with a budget of \$800 per year for printing on a go forward basis.

The Committee reported that it will be providing \$2,500 to the City's Cat Adoption and Education Centre. Denielle will go to the General Committee or to Council to present the gift.

Moved by Michelle Lustri

Seconded by Terri Daniels

That the Animal Care Committee donate \$2,500 to the Cat Adoption Education Centre.

Carried

6. New Business

a. Committee Appointments

The Committee Clerk advised that three new members have been appointed to the Animal Care Committee. Their term will start in January 2017.

b. Wildlife Contract

There was a brief discussion on the City's wildlife contract. The City's wildlife contract with Toronto Wildlife is complete. A tender is being issued for the service. The OSPCA will be playing a more active role in the new wildlife contract to help streamline services and to provide residents with one point of contact. Since the last time the City renewed its wildlife contract, the OSPCA has trained its staff in the rescuing of wildlife. Performance measures are being included in the contract. The maximum the City will pay for the contract is \$50K per year. The criteria the service provider will need to meet are included in the RFP. Staff are hoping to find a service provider that works the same hours as the OSPCA.

Christopher Alexander spoke about a deer that was loose and that had to be euthanized. A committee member suggested that the Toronto zoo should be contacted if a situation like this arises again in the future or possibly a local vet that has wildlife or zoo animal experience. Esther Attard will provide Christy with the contact info for the zoo personnel and Denielle to provide a possible local vet with exotic animal experience.

Denielle Duncan raised concerns that the OSPCA is to have a more active role with the wildlife situations, ie Calls to be answered by the OSPCA and responded to by the OSPCA. Chris Alexander said this will be done to ensure a faster and more efficient "rescue" and to ensure that wildlife calls after early business hours be answered and attended to.

c. By-Law Review

The Animal Care Committee undertook a comprehensive review of Markham Animal Control By-law and reviewed the best practices of other municipalities. Based on this review, the Animal Care Committee recommended the following changes to the By-Law 2005-254:

Section 1 – Definitions – Page 3

- add definition for humane trap
- add definition for feral cat
- add definition for extreme weather – example provided from Mississauga
- enhance definition for muzzle – example provided from Toronto – discusses ability to breath and pant, not interfere with vision

Section 2 - Care of Animal Provisions – Page 6

Responsibility to Care for Animals – 2.1

- enhance the guidelines, provide standards for care of animals – example provided from Mississauga

Keeping Animals Under Sanitary Conditions – Page 8 – 2.2

- additional information on odour – include ammonia levels measured at level of animals – Canadian Centre of Occupational Health and Safety – American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists recommended exposure limit for ammonia:

ACGIH® TLV® - TWA: 25 ppm

ACGIH® TLV® - STEL [C]: 35 ppm

Exposure Guideline Comments: TLV® = Threshold Limit Value. TWA = Time-Weighted Average. STEL = Short-term Exposure Limit. C = Ceiling limit.

Tethers – Page 8 – 2.3

- enhance guidelines/standards – include that length of tether must allow access to food/water, shelter – example provided from Mississauga

Section 3 – Dogs

Running at Large – Page 10 – 3.2

- remove running – not necessary – remove from entire section/by-law

Impoundment – Page 11 – 3.3 (6) (a)

- include "adopt" and remove "sell"
- indicate that no animals to research
- (7) provision to consult with veterinarian prior to euthanasia
- (8) remove destroy and insert humanely euthanize

Stoop & Scoop – Page 13 – 3.6

- Include information on how violations are dealt with

Number of Dogs – Page 13 – 3.8

- Investigate increasing the number of dogs to greater than current amount of 2 dogs
- Include that residents can apply to the City for an exemption if have more dogs than the by-law stipulates
- Include a provision for rescues and foster parents to be exempt from the number of dogs allowed – must specify conditions

Section 4 – Cats

Cat Impoundment – Page 15 – 4.3 (4)

- Decrease the holding period to 72 hours (3 days) for cats – Toronto does this – reduces cost as have ability to get cats to adoption or transfer to rescue etc. more quickly
- (6) (a), (7), (8) – same comments as for Dogs above

Number of Cats – Page 16 – 4.4

- Investigate increasing the number of cats to greater than current amount of 4 cats – could be based on size of property
- Include that residents can apply to the City for an exemption if have more cats than by-law stipulates
- Include a provision for rescues and foster parents to be exempt from the number of cats allowed - must specify conditions
- Include a provision for feral cats within the by-law that if cat deemed feral is exempt from the by-law
- Include a provision for TNR to manage feral cats humanely

Section 6 – Keeping of Livestock

- 6.1 (2) – remove "running"
- 6.1 (3) – add "humanely" before "euthanize"

Section 7 – Keeping of Domestic Pigeons

- 7.1 (1) (c) – minimum standard is 2 sq ft per bird – by-law does not meet the minimum standard – should be changed – discussed in meeting tonight prohibiting the keeping of domestic pigeons

Section 10 – Trapping of Wildlife

- Include conibear trap

Section 11 – Removing Wildlife from Public Lands

- include provision that wildlife removed humanely by a wildlife removal company that documents protocols used and are deemed humane and follow best practices for the industry
- Include that wildlife removed from private property must be done humanely

Section 12 – Keeping of Certain Animals Prohibited

- 12.1 (3) (e) (g) – remove exempt with CAZA accreditation – information provided from Toronto

Section 13 – Animals Used in Exhibits, Entertainment and Performances

- Include information to prohibit use of exotic animals in circuses

Include section on regulating the sale of domestic animals in pet stores – see information provided from Toronto

d. Administrative Municipal Penalty System

Christy Lehman reported that animal control offences may be moved to the City's new Administrative Municipal Penalty System. The system will provide the City with the opportunity to respond faster to animal offences, as it removes the court system from the process. It also allows the City to add a resident's unpaid fines to their tax bill.

7. Adjournment

The Animal Care Committee adjourned at 7:03 pm

Animal Care Committee

December 14, 2016

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