

Animal Care Committee
July 15, 2015
Canada Room
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Attendance: Councillor Valerie Burke , Esther Attard, Pushproup Brar, Julie Chan, Vice – Chair Terri Daniels, Chair Denielle Duncan, Jennifer Ford, Furbait Kashmiri ,Michelle Lustri, Trudie Ross, and Pam Young Staff: Christopher Alexander, Supervisor of Licensing & Animal Control; Bev Shugg Barbeito, Committee Coordinator Members of the Public: Janet Andrews, K. Tung Regrets: Julia Colangelo, Rhiannon Lane, Shirley Lesch, Christy Lehman, Licensing & Standards Coordinator, and Laura Gold, Committee Coordinator
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Item	Discussion	Action
1. Call to Order	The Animal Care Committee convened at 5:41 p.m. with Denielle Duncan presiding as Chair. New members were welcomed and introductions were made.	
2. Minutes	It was Moved by Terri Daniels Seconded by Esther Attard That the Minutes from the June 17, 2015 Animal Care Committee meeting be approved as presented. CARRIED	
3. Review of Action Items	The following updates were provided for the action items from the previous meeting: • Christopher Alexander reported that octopi do not seem to be covered by the Ontario SPCA Act. • Furbait Kashmiri reported that she had purchased cages to house feral cats while recovering from being neutered/spayed, or that are nursing kittens, and will submit the bill for reimbursement. • Adding Canada's Wonderland to Pet Loyalty Card – waiting for response • Review Animal Care Committee Terms of Reference – deferred to a meeting in fall 2015 • Creation of brochure on Markham's Animal Services - deferred	Terms of Reference and Guiding Principles will be distributed to Committee members

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4. Animal Control Services	Christopher Alexander provided the following updates on Markham's Animal Control Services: <u>Trap Neuter and Return</u> Christopher Alexander reported that there are a number of feral cats in the Markham Road/Denison Avenue area. Markham is trapping one or two each day. Since not everyone wants the cats in the community, each situation is handled on a case by case basis. He plans to hold a seminar about this program in fall 2015. <u>Barn Cats</u> Christopher Alexander reported that Markham is requesting program information from other municipalities to be used to implement a similar program by spring 2016. Committee members advised that such a program must have criteria for the barns in order to protect the cats. Christopher Alexander reported that, in September, the Committee could form a sub-committee to assist in developing the criteria for the program. Esther Attard will share the guidelines for the Toronto program with Christopher Alexander. <u>Cat and Pet Education Centre</u> Christopher Alexander reported that, at its June 23rd, 2015 meeting, Council unanimously approved the establishment of a Cat Adoption and Education Centre (CAEC) in the Thornhill Community Centre and Library. The CAEC will focus on the promotion of cat adoptions, which will help to decrease the euthanasia rate. In addition, the CAEC will promote joint initiatives with Community programs, such as reading therapy programs in conjunction with the library, education programs on animal welfare, volunteer programs for residents and students, including those enrolled in veterinary technician programs. The CAEC will be a temporary home to a maximum of 17 cats at any given time and the cats will be spayed or neutered and receive up to date vaccinations. Opening of the CAEC is anticipated for fall 2015 depending on the timing and completion of renovations. Councillor Valerie Burke extended the appreciation of Council for the Committee's donation of \$30,000 towards the project. Animal Services plans to create branding and advertising for the CAEC. Councillor Valerie Burke reported that some members of the public think of the CAEC as an animal shelter; it will be important to properly brand the CAEC as an adoption and education centre.	Meeting on Monday, July 27 at 6:00 pm in the Ontario Room to discuss fundraising ideas for the Cat Adoption and Education Centre (CAEC).

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	The Committee discussed whether to offer space, as available, to animal rescue groups in order to maintain maximum capacity at the CAEC; members expressed concern that differences in hygiene practices might expose cats to unwanted health issues. This issue will be researched and discussed further. <u>Fundraising for the CAEC</u> Christopher Alexander reported that he will be discussing this matter with Corporate Communications. There will be roles for interested stakeholders such as members of this Committee and OSPCA. It was suggested holding a separate meeting to discuss fundraising ideas for the CAEC; it was agreed to hold the meeting on Monday, July 27 at 6:00 pm in the Ontario Room. Volunteers and sponsors for the centre will be welcomed. Chair Danielle Duncan provided information to Christopher Alexander about a potential volunteer and potential sponsor. It was suggested that it would be helpful to have a local photographer donate services to take quality pictures of the cats to be adopted. It was reported that Rhiannon Lane may offer design services, Councillor Valerie Burke can advertise in her newsletters and on Facebook, and Christopher Alexander will work with Corporate Communications to develop a website.	
5. Events	Chair Danielle Duncan reviewed upcoming events and reminded Committee members they are needed to participate. She will send Committee members an email requesting volunteers to participate at the Dog Days event at the Stiver Mill Farmer's Market on August 9, 2015.	Email to request volunteers to participate at the Dog Days event on August 9, 2015.
6. Election of the Treasurer and Event Coordinator	Chair Danielle Duncan provided information about the responsibilities of each position. Pushproup Brar and Rhiannon Lane indicated interest in the position of Event Coordinator. Pam Young indicated interest in the position of Treasurer. It was Moved by Pushproup Brar Seconded by Terri Daniels That Pushproup Brar and Rhiannon Lane be appointed to serve as Co Event Coordinators of the Animal Care Committee. CARRIED	

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	It was Moved by Terri Daniels Seconded by Furhait Kashmiri That Pam Young be appointed to the position of Treasurer of the Animal Care Committee. CARRIED	
7. New Business	Chair Denielle Duncan reported that \$55.20 was collected by the Committee at the Markham Village Music Festival; she gave these funds to Treasurer Pam Young for safekeeping. Councillor Valerie Burke reported that Dr. Cliff Redford has offered to provide veterinarian services at discounted rates to animal rescue groups.	
8. Adjournment	It was Moved by Esther Attard Seconded by Terri Daniels That the Animal Care Committee adjourn at 7:35 p.m. CARRIED	