

**Animal Care Committee**

**May 20, 2015**

**Ontario Room**

**5:30 PM – 7:00 PM**

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| <b>Attendance:</b> Councillor Valerie Burke , Janet Andrews, Chair, Esther Attard , Rhiannon Lane, Julia Colangelo, Furhait Kashmiri, Trudie Ross, and Pam Young |
| <b>Staff:</b> Christy Lehman, Licensing & Standards Coordinator, and Laura Gold, Committee Clerk                                                                 |
| <b>Members of the Public:</b> Nicholas Ross, Terri Daniels, Danielle Duncan, Bernice Royce, and Sophia Trettin                                                   |
| <b>Regrets:</b> Kathy Clark, and Christopher Alexander, Supervisor of Licensing & Animal Control                                                                 |

| <b>Item</b>                                           | <b>Discussion</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>Action</b> |
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| <b>1. Call to Order</b>                               | The Animal Care Committee convened at 5:40 p.m. with Janet Andrews presiding as Chair.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |               |
| <b>2. Minutes</b>                                     | Moved by Esther Attard<br>Seconded by Rhiannon Lane<br><br>That the Minutes from the April 15, 2015 Animal Care Committee meeting be approved as presented.<br><br>CARRIED                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |               |
| <b>3. The Octopus The Case for Greater Protection</b> | Nicholas Ross, Thornhill Resident was in attendance and provided a presentation entitled “The Octopus The Case for Greater Protection”. The presentation included information on: 1) how the octopus is being treated by some restaurants; 2) the lack of legal protection against the cruel treatment of octopuses; 3) the protection of the octopus in other countries; 4) the intelligence of the octopus; and 5) the next steps to better protect the octopus.<br><br>The Committee discussed how it could help protect the octopus and other types of similar species from cruel treatment, as the protection of these species does not fall under |               |

| Item                              | Discussion                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Action                                                                                                               |
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|                                   | <p>the jurisdiction of the municipality. The Committee agreed that the following actions could be taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Try to get the definition for animals broadened under the <i>Animals for Research Act</i> so that it includes cephalopods, octopods, and craciformes;</li> <li>• Put societal pressure on restaurants that have practices that are cruel to octopods or other like species.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                      |
| <b>4. Review of Action Items</b>  | <p>The Committee reviewed the action items from the previous meeting. It was advised that Christy is working on the brochure, which highlights Markham's animal services.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                      |
| <b>5. Animal Control Services</b> | <p>Christy Lehman provided the following updates on Markham's Animal Control Services:</p> <p><u>Barn Cat Program</u></p> <p>The City continues to investigate the possibility of starting a barn cat program in Markham. Some of the funds from the TNR budget would be used towards the program. The OSPCA has advised the City that it often gets requests for barn cats. The City of Brampton is very pleased with the outcome/success of its barn cat program. The goal would be to provide farmers with the least adoptable cats, and to adopt out the most adoptable cats at the animal control storefront, provided it is approved by Council.</p> <p>The Committee suggested speaking with local animal groups regarding starting a barn cat program, as some of these groups have tried to run similar types of programs.</p> <p><u>TNR</u></p> <p>The Committee spoke about strategies it could use to get feral cats comfortable with being in a cage. The possibility of placing old open cages in the areas the City plans to trap the cats in was discussed, as this may help the cats get comfortable with being in a cage. It was questioned if the OSPCA could provide cages for this purpose.</p> | <p>Look into putting open cages on sites the City plans to trap on prior to trapping – Christy Lehman, and Janet</p> |

| Item             | Discussion                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Action                                                                                                                                    |
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|                  | <p>There was a discussion on some of the challenges/risks with respect to trapping in residential areas. The cats cannot be returned to the residential area, as it would be in contravention with the City's Animal Control By-Law.</p> <p>The Committee approved using some of the money from its trust fund to purchase a cage that can be used by a Committee Member to house the feral cat overnight when recovering from being neutered/spayed or when a feral queen (who will be relocated) is nursing kittens.</p> <p>Moved by Esther Attard<br/>Seconded by Pam Young</p> <p>That the Animal Care Committee approve purchasing a cage for approximately \$300 to house feral cats while recovering from being spayed or neutered.</p> <p>CARRIED</p> <p><u>Store Front</u><br/>Story Boards of the proposed storefront were displayed to the Committee. Most residents seem to be in favour of having an animal storefront, but some residents have raised concerns regarding having the storefront at a Community Centre. Staff were confident that the concerns being raised have been addressed in the plans for the storefront.</p> <p>The report on the animal control storefront is targeted to go to the General Committee on June 15, 2015. Members were encouraged to attend the meeting to show their support for the initiative.</p> <p>The Committee discussed the logistics of its upcoming events.</p> | <p>Andrews</p> <p>Purchase cage to house feral cats while recovering from being neutered/spayed or nursing kittens – Furhait Kashmiri</p> |
| <b>6. Events</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                           |

| Item                          | Discussion                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Action                                                                                                                                                                                                |
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| <p><b>7. New Business</b></p> | <p><u>Low Cost Rabies and Micro Chipping Clinic</u><br/>Christy Lehman reported that the City will proceed to have a low cost rabies and micro chipping clinic at Markham Village Arena on Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015 from 11am-2pm. The animals must be licensed in order to be eligible to get the vaccination and to be micro chipped. The clinic will be advertised in a variety of places. There are plans to hold a second clinic in Thornhill in the fall.</p> <p><u>Pet Loyalty Card</u><br/>The Committee asked if both Pet Valu, and Canada's Wonderland could be added to the Pet Loyalty Card. Christy Lehman will investigate this possibility.</p> <p><u>Appointments</u><br/>The Clerk advised that the appointments to the Animal Care Committee were in the process of being finalized.</p> <p><u>Wildlife</u><br/>It was advised that in accordance with the City's bird friendly guidelines the City will be putting bird film up on the north side of the Miller work yard facility, and at the Cornell Community Centre.</p> <p><u>Terms of Reference</u><br/>There was a brief discussion in regards to reviewing the Animal Care Committee Terms of Reference at a future meeting.</p> <p>The Animal Care Committee adjourned at 7:06 p.m.</p> | <p>Look into adding Pet Valu and Canada's Wonderland to the Pet Loyalty Card – Christy Lehman</p> <p>Possibly review the Animal Care Committee Terms of Reference at a future Meeting - Committee</p> |
| <p><b>8. Adjournment</b></p>  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                       |