

Animal Care Committee
February 19, 2014
Ontario Room
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Attendance: Janet Andrews, Chair, Esther Attard, Kathy Clark, Jody Greenlaw, Furhait Kashmiri , Rhiannon Lane, Trudie Ross and Pam Young Staff: Christopher Alexander, Supervisor of Licensing & Animal Control and Laura Gold, Committee Clerk Members of the Public: Terri Daniels and Denielle Duncan Regrets: Julia Colangelo and Councillor Valerie Burke
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Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Item
1. Call to Order	The Animal Care Committee convened at 5:30 p.m. with Janet Andrews presiding as Chair.	
2. Minutes	The word apprentice was changed to mentor on page 6 of the January 15, 2014 minutes. Moved by Jody Greenlaw Seconded by Kathy Clark That the Minutes from the Animal Care Committee Meeting held on January 15, 2014 be approved as amended. CARRIED	

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	Review of Action Items The following updates were provided on the action items: <u>Canadian Federation of Humane Societies</u> Christopher Alexander emailed the information from the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies to the committee. <u>Key Dates</u> Rhannon Lane will email the Committee Clerk the key dates to be included on the agenda and to be submitted to the Clerk's Office to be proclaimed by Council. <u>What would happen to the animals when the storefront is closed</u> The animals will remain at the storefront and will be cared for by a staff person and volunteers when the storefront is closed to the public.	
3. Animal Control Update	<u>TNR Update</u> Christopher Alexander reported that a dedicated trap, neuter and return (TNR) program is being put in place. Four colonies will be targeted this spring. IBM has confirmed that it will participate in the program. The City must provide IBM with the days the trapping will occur. IBM has agreed to advise its employees not to feed the cats. The OSPCA will spay and neuter the cats. The cats will then be transported to another location to recover, unless space is available at the OSPCA for the cats to recover. By-Law Officers will be used to move the cats. The Committee noted that it would be optimal if the cats could stay at the OSPCA to recover, as this would be less traumatic of an experience for them. The Committee was asked if they knew anyone who would be able to house the cats while they recover. Denielle Duncan circulated a form for tracking feral cats used by rescue group. This document was provided to staff as an example of a document that can be used to track feral cats.	

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	<u>OSPCA</u> It was noted that the OPSCA statistics on the City's website need to be updated. It was questioned if the OSPSA will be permanently providing cats to the Pet Smart on Highway 48. Chris Alexander will investigate this matter. <u>Storefront</u> Christopher Alexander reported that it would cost \$86 K to fix the space up at the Thornhill Community Centre for an animal control storefront. There is currently \$50 K budgeted for this work. The Committee suggested raising the additional funds through sponsorship. Christopher Alexander will be preparing a business plan for the storefront with all of the associated costs to bring forward to Council at the end of March. The Committee requested to be notified when the business plan goes forward to Council. <u>Wildlife</u> A diagram of the routing of wildlife requests for service was displayed and explained to the Committee. <u>Licensing of Wildlife Specialist</u> An update on the licensing of wildlife specialist was provided. Some issues will need to be resolved regarding the licensing of wildlife specialist prior to moving forward. Some of these issues included the following: • What is considered humane treatment of wildlife? • What are the training requirements for a wildlife specialist? • Does the City have the authority to license wildlife specialist? It was suggested that a registry may be another way of managing wildlife specialist in Markham, as Markham has the authority to register businesses in Markham. The Committee wanted to ensure that the input being received on the licensing of	

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	wildlife specialist was from Markham residents. This was brought to staff's attention as many of the business owners who attended the open house on the matter were not from Markham. It was suggested that following information be included in Markham Life or be inserted with Markham's tax bills: (1) the 10 questions homeowners should ask wildlife specialists; (2) promotional materials for any new programs pertaining to the licensing of wildlife specialists. <u>Wildlife Contract</u> The City is requested that Toronto Wildlife Centre provide statistics on the type of animals brought to the centre, where the animals are picked up and the disposition of the animal, as part of its contract. The contract is in the process of being finalized.	
4. Events	Events The Committee will focus on assisting with the emergency preparedness week for the next little while. It was recommended that the planning for the emergency preparedness week occur at sub-committee meetings, which will be scheduled on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.	
5. Deputation	Dave Skowronski provided a deputation to the Committee on his application for an exemption to have a prohibited animal. The request was to have a red tail hawk which would be kept in a large backyard enclosure. A cooper's hawk, a sharp shinned hawk, a harris hawk, a red tailed hawk or a kestrelis hawk is being requested to start a business to deter seagulls. The Committee asked the following questions: What will the bird eat? The bird will eat frozen bird chicks, which will be obtained from a bird farm. How long does it take to train the bird? It takes about two weeks to train a hawk.	

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	How often will the bird be exercised? The bird will be exercised every day except for in the winter months when it is not supposed to be flown. The bird will be mostly exercised at a farm in Stouffville. How long does take to be trained to become a falconer? It takes 16 months to 2 years to become trained as a falconer. Will you be looking at getting another bird soon? Only one bird was being requested at this time. The applicant did not have any interest in having a second bird for a long time. What happens when the bird retires? The birds can generally be flown for the duration of their life. Have you spoken to your neighbours about having a red tail hawk? The applicant had plans to speak to his neighbours, but had not yet had the opportunity to do so. It was noted that the City would also be notifying his neighbours regarding his request to have a prohibited animal. Moved by Esther Attard Seconded by Rhiannon Lane That the Animal Care Committee support the application for exemption to have a prohibited animal by Dave Skowronski to have a coopers hawk, a sharp shinned hawk, a harris hawk, a red tailed hawk or a kestrel hawk. CARRIED	
6. New Business	Item 5. B. on the agenda entitled Canadians encouraged to “tie one on” to Support Animal Adoption was deferred to the next meeting.	
7. Adjournment	The Animal Care Committee adjourned at 8:06 p.m.	