

Animal Care Committee
December 18, 2013
Ontario Room
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Attendance: Janet Andrews, Chair, Councillor Valerie Burke, Esther Attard, Kathy Clark, Julia Colangelo Jody Greenlaw, Furhait Kashmiri Caroline Lane , Rhiannon Lane and Pam Young Staff: Chris Alexander, Supervisor of Licensing & Animal Service, Sonia Singh, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, and Laura Gold, Committee Clerk Members of the Public: Terri Daniels and Denielle Duncan Regrets: None	
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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. 2014 Emergency Preparedness Week	Sonia Singh, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator was in attendance to discuss the 2014 Emergency Preparedness Week (May 4 to May 10, 2014), which will focus on preparing pet owners on what to do in an emergency. Pet owners often do not know what to do with their pets in an emergency. As a result, pets are often lost or killed in emergency situations. The City is working on creating a plan for the handling of pets in an emergency. Staff are currently reviewing other municipalities plans for ideas. The plan will include ensuring pets are tagged and chipped. This helps ensure pets are reunited with their families in an emergency. A copy of York Region's Emergency Preparedness Guide was provided to the Committee.	

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	The following Committee Members volunteered to assist Sonia Singh in the planning and undertaking of the 2014 Emergency Preparedness Week: • Janet Andrews • Kathy Clark • Julia Colangelo • Rhiannon Lane • Pam Young • Councillor Valerie Burke Sonia Singh hoped to engage local pet stores, York Region Police, vets and other pet related organizations to participate in the 2014 Emergency Preparedness Week. The City will have emergency kits for pets on display, handout giveaways (e.g. a water bowl or stickers) and will possibly offer the licensing and chipping of pets at a reduced cost. The City is looking for sponsors to help cover the costs of the activities being planned for the week. The Committee suggested that the most effective way of having lost pets reunited with their pet owners is to ensure pets are chipped, as a pet may not be wearing their collar with their pet tag in an emergency. It was also suggested that the City giveaway carry cases for cats during the week. The pros and cons of having a sticker saying that you have a pet in your home were discussed.	
3. Minutes	Moved by Kathy Clark Seconded by Jody Greenlaw The Minutes from the Animal Care Committee Meeting held on November 20, 2013 be approved as presented.	CARRIED

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	Review of Action Items The Committee reviewed the action items from the previous meeting.	
3. Animal Control Update	<u>Cat Symposium Update</u> Christopher Alexander presented information pertaining to cats from the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies. This information will be emailed to the Committee. <u>OSPCA</u> Christopher Alexander reported that the City is working with the OSPCA to finalize the contract between the City of Markham and the OSPCA for Markham's animal control services. The OSPCA has agreed to have its Officers trained on Amanda so that all of Markham's animal control information can be inputted into Markham's system. <u>Wildlife Contract</u> The City is working out some issues with respect to insurance prior to finalizing its wildlife contract. <u>Store Front</u> Staff are investigating the possibility of having a store front for Markham's animal control services at the Thornhill Community Centre. An ideal location has been found. Permission to use the space still needs to be obtained. The details would also need to be sorted out. If approval is obtained to use the space, this would be the first animal control services store front in Ontario located in a community centre. Staff are also investigating the possibility of partnering with Finding Lost Pets for the operations of the store front. The City has a budget of \$100K in 2014 to create the store front and to operate the store front. It will cost approximately \$20K to build the inside of the store. A huge pool of volunteers will be needed to run the storefront. The OSPCA is unable to commit to the store front project at this time. Its role with	Email stats provided by the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies to the Committee – Christopher Alexander

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	respect to the store front at this time will be to provide the pets. <u>Wildlife Removal Specialist</u> The City will be holding public consultation sessions with key stakeholder regarding the licensing of the wildlife removal specialist. A survey may be conducted as part of the consultation process. The City of Toronto recently held its public consultation session on the licensing of wildlife specialist. The main issues brought forward at the session were about how the City would define humane trapping of wildlife and what happens to the wildlife after they are trapped. <u>Trap Neuter and Return Program</u> No update was provided at this time. <u>Adoption update</u> No update was provided at this time.	
4. Events	<u>Parades</u> The Animal Care Committee participated in two Christmas parades in Markham. It was recommend that this be organized earlier next year if the Committee would still like to participate in the parades, as only three Members of the Committee participated in the Markham Parade – fortunately, Kathy was able to enlist the support of some friends and family to augment our numbers . <u>Treasurer Report</u> The Treasurer reported that the Committee raised \$88.82 for animal care services at the Markham Fair.	
5. New Business	<u>Shriner's Circus Update</u> An update on the Committee's request to the General Committee pertaining to having a letter sent to the Shriner's regarding not having animal acts in its circuses was provided.	

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	<u>Horse Slaughter Update</u> The letter sent to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency regarding the slaughter of horses for human consumption was provided to the Committee for its information. <u>Protect Pets from Poison</u> The Committee reviewed the article on protecting pets from poison and discussed the possibility of having rat traps removed from Civic Centre. <u>Wildlife Needs Your Help</u> An email about the City of Toronto's public consultation session on its proposal to license wildlife specialist was reviewed by the Committee for information purposes. <u>Appointment Update</u> The Committee Clerk advised that a new member has been appointed to the Animal Care Committee and that Caroline Lane has completed her term.	
6. Adjournment	The Animal Care Committee adjourned at 7:18 p.m.	