

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

Attendance: Councillor Valerie Burke, Janet Andrews, Chair, Esther Attard, Vice-Chair, Kathy Clark, Julia Colangelo, Jody Greenlaw, Rhiannon Lane and Pam Young

Staff: Chris Alexander, Supervisor of Licensing & Animal Services and Laura Gold, Committee Clerk

Members of the Public: Terri Daniels and Denielle Duncan

Regrets: Furhait Kashmiri and Caroline Lane

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Item
1. Call to Order	The Animal Care Committee convened at 5:36 p.m. with Janet Andrews presiding as Chair.	
2. Approval of the Minutes	Moved by Esther Attard Seconded by Jody Greenlaw That the Minutes of the July 17 and August 21, 2013 Animal Care Committee be approved as presented. <u>Review of Action Items</u> Markham Fair The Committee inquired whether staff could create a brochure to be distributed at Markham Fair on the following: • The animal services store front concept; • Enhancements to Markham's wildlife services; • Markham's Trap Neuter and Return Program; and, • Pet licensing. CARRIED	Ask if literature can be created on Markham's new animal control initiatives – Christopher Alexander

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	The Chair will discuss with Caroline Lane the status of the Animal Care Committee newsletter and whether it will be ready to be distributed at Markham Fair. Shriners Circus The Committee agreed that another letter should be sent to the Shriners Circus regarding eliminating animal acts at its circus events. Moved by Esther Attard Seconded by Kathy Clark That the Animal Care Committee request that Council endorse the letter to the Shriners International Headquarters regarding eliminating animal acts at its circus events presented as Appendix A ; and, That the letter be signed by Mayor Frank Scarpitti and forwarded to the Shriners International Headquarters. CARRIED City of Markham's Contract with the OSPCA Chris Alexander reported that the contract between the City of Markham and the OSPCA will be a public document once signed. OSPCA Statistics Christopher Alexander answered the following questions from the July Animal Care Committee Meeting regarding the 2012 OSPCA statistics: 1. Under what category are the cats that are trapped, neutered and returned (TNR) placed when calculating the statistics? The cats that were trapped, neutered and returned were not included in the 2012 OSPCA statistics. These cats will be included under a separate category on a go	Discuss Animal Care Committee newsletter with Caroline Lane – Janet Andrews

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	forward basis. 2. What types of animals were included under the 55 wildlife that were adopted? The wildlife that was reported as adopted in the 2012 OSPCA statistics were the ducks that were rescued. <i>Freedom of Information Request</i> There was a discussion on the decision of a freedom of information request for past OSPCA statistics. It was noted that all freedom of information decisions may be appealed. <i>Thornhill Village Festival</i> The Committee confirmed that it will have a booth and participate in the parade at the Thornhill Village Festival. <i>Lost Dog</i> A feel good story about a dog that was rescued was shared with the Committee. <i>Trap Neuter and Return</i> Christopher Alexander reported that all cats that are trapped neutered and returned are neutered, vaccinated and ear tagged. He would look into whether they are micro-chipped and report back at the next meeting. Staff were still reviewing its Animal Control by-law to ensure that the City's Trap Neuter and Return program is not in contravention with its by-law.	Find out if cats that are TNR are micro-chipped – Christopher Alexander
3. Animal Control Program Update	<u>A. Animal Control Report</u> Staff are in the process of finalizing contracts with the OSPCA and Toronto Wildlife for its animal control services.	

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	A Committee Member inquired whether money from development charges can be allocated towards the management of wildlife displacement due to development. Chris Alexander will investigate this matter and report back to the committee at the next meeting. It was reported that 60 rabbits were removed from a hoarder's home in Markham. Three of the rabbits had to be put down and 11 were treated for minor illnesses. The rabbits have now been placed in animal shelters to be adopted. <u>B. Trap Neuter and Return (TNR) Pilot Project Update</u> Staff reported that there has been little activity under the City's Trap Neuter and Return Program, as it is currently without an animal control contract. An update on the cat colony located on the IBM site was provided. There was a discussion regarding a shopkeeper caring for a family of cats on Main Street Unionville. This included the trapping and neutering the cats. Moved by Kathy Clark Seconded by Rhiannon Lane That the Animal Care Committee send a letter of appreciation to the shopkeeper for looking after a family of cats on Main Street Unionville. <u>C. Adoption Update</u> No report was provided.	See if development charges can be used to help manage the displacement of wildlife due to development – Christopher Alexander Send Letter of appreciation to shopkeeper - TBD

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	D. <u>OSPCA Update</u> No report was provided.	
4. Events	<u>Markham Fair</u> The Committee Clerk was requested to provide the Chair with the details pertaining to the Markham Fair Booth. In particular, the number of entrance passes provided with the booth.	Provide the Chair with the details pertaining to the Markham Fair Booth – Laura Gold
5. 2014 Fundraising Calendar	The Chair reported that all refunds for the 2014 Animal Care Fundraising Calendar have been provided. It was requested that the fundraising calendar be removed from the agenda until January 2014.	
6. New Business	A. Treasurer Report The Treasurer reported that \$23.11 cents was raised by the Animal Care Committee at three events. B. North Toronto Cat Rescue There was a discussion on the North Toronto Cat Rescue. The Committee had some concern that this organization was being referred to as the Markham Animal Shelter. C. Kijiji Pressed to End Sale of Household Pets The Committee discussed an article on Kijiji being pressed to end the sale of house pets. A Committee Member advised that Craigslist has prohibited the sale of household pets on its website, but that Kijiji continues to permit the sale of household pets on its website. D. NDP-Atamanenko – Niagara Falls Anti-Horse Slaughter Billboard to Inspire Action	

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	The Committee discussed a private members bill that is currently before the House of Commons to prohibit the distribution of horse meat for human consumption. Moved by Rhiannon Lane Seconded by Kathy Clark That the Animal Care Committee recommend that Markham Council support the private members bill that is currently before the House of Commons regarding prohibiting horse meat for human consumption. E. Shark Fin Soup It was reported that the Government of Hong Kong has prohibited the serving of shark fin soup at all government functions. F. Store Front A video of the animal services store fronts that staff visited was displayed to the Committee. The City hoped to have a paid store manager at its animal services store front in addition to a large number of volunteers. G. Wildlife Licensing Christopher Alexander reported that a meeting was being planned to review the City's plans to license wildlife specialist with stakeholders. A report on this City initiative was being targeted to be brought forward to Council in January 2014.	
7. Date of the Next Meeting	October 16, 2013 - 5:30 p.m., Ontario Room	
8. Adjournment	The Animal Care Committee adjourned at 7:25 p.m.	