

Animal Care Committee
April 17, 2013
Ontario Room
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Attendance: Councillor Valerie Burke, Janet Andrews, Chair, Terri Daniels, Denielle Duncan, Jody Greenlaw, Furhait Kashmiri, Caroline Lane and Pam Young Staff: Chris Alexander, Supervisor of Licensing & Animal Services, Laura Gold, Committee Clerk Regrets: Esther Attard, Vice-Chair, Kathy Clark and Rhiannon Lane

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Item
1. Call to Order	The Animal Care Committee convened at 5:39 p.m. with Janet Andrews presiding as Chair.	
2. Minutes of the Animal Care Committee Meeting	Moved by Jody Greenlaw Seconded by Pam Young That the Minutes from the March 20, 2013 Animal Care Committee meeting be approved as presented. CARRIED	
3. Business Arising From the Minutes	<u>Review of Action Items</u> The Committee reviewed the action items from the previous meeting. The following updates were provided: <u>Helping Lost Pets</u> Chris Alexander is still looking for a better place for the Helping Lost Pets link on the website. It was noted that having the link on Markham's website has helped two pet owners find their lost pets.	Find a better place on the website for the Helping Lost Pets link – Chris Alexander

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	Chris Alexander agreed to look and see if the OSPCA and neighbouring municipalities have added the link to their website. Rob Goddard was advised that Markham staff have encouraged neighbouring municipalities and the OSPCA to place the Helping Lost Pets link on their website. <u>Toronto Trap Neuter and Return Program</u> Chris Alexander reported that he attended a conference where Esther Attard gave a presentation on the City of Toronto's Trap Neuter and Return (TNR) Program. He will review the program at the next meeting. <u>Proclamations</u> The Committee agreed that all annual animal/wildlife proclamations should be submitted to the Clerk's Office in January. This will ensure that all animal/wildlife proclamations are put forward to Council for its approval. The Committee Clerk was requested to add "Wildlife Awareness Week" to the next agenda under key dates to remember.	See if the OSPCA and neighbouring municipalities have included the link on their websites – Christopher Alexander Submit annually all animal/wildlife proclamations to the Clerk's Office in January - TBD Add "Wildlife Awareness Week" to the next agenda under key dates to remember – Laura Gold

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4. Animal Control Program Update	A. <u>Trap Neuter and Return (TNR) Pilot Project Update</u> Christopher Alexander reported that the OPSCA will be able to provide two neuters per week for Markham's TNR Program. The cats will need to be brought to another location to recover when there is no space available at the OPSCA. The Committee suggested paying the OPSCA for extra space for the recovery of the cats so that the animals do not need to be moved. There was also concern that two neuters per week would not be sufficient during peak times, as during peak times cat colonies can grow quickly. A suggestion was made to use a vet in Scarborough when the OPSCA is unable to house the cats during their recovery. This vet will both neuter the cats and house them during their recovery for a fair price. Denielle Duncan reported that the IBM cat colony has grown considerably from last year and that the OPSCA will require IBM's permission to go onto its property to TNR the cats. The more time the City takes to address this cat colony through its TNR program the larger it will grow. B. <u>Adoption Update</u> Christopher Alexander reported that the adoption day at Pet Valu went very well. The OPSCA brought three (3) dogs. On a go forward basis the OPSCA would like to bring cats and dogs when holding adoption days at this location, as the owner was only able to permit dogs at this adoption day. It was recommended that the OPSCA hold adoption days at major Markham events like Barkham. Chris Alexander reported that this possibility is being investigated by City Staff. The Committee also suggested that it could bring pictures of the smaller animals (e.g.	

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	rabbits) up for adoption and display them at events it attends, provided pictures were available for them to display. Later in the meeting the Committee viewed the animals up for adoption on the OSPCA's website. C. <u>OSPCA Update</u> Chris Alexander reported that a meeting will be held with the OSPCA to discuss service level expectations. It was noted that the City is planning on including wildlife in its contract with the OSPCA and that it is investigating the possibility of building relationships with wildlife rehabilitators. The City is looking at the critical care time for wildlife to try and reduce the euthanasia rate of wildlife. The Committee noted that the critical care time will vary based on the type of wildlife being rehabilitated. The Committee questioned whether the OSPCA would still be responsible for answering phone calls on wildlife. Staff confirmed that wildlife phone calls would still be received by the OSPCA. The Committee thought that the City would save money if it hired a more experienced vendor like Toronto Wildlife to answer its calls on wildlife as many wildlife matters can be resolved over the phone.	

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	D. <u>Special General Committee – Markham’s Animal Care Model</u> It was reported that the staff report on Markham’s Animal Care Committee Model will now be discussed at a regular General Committee Meeting. Staff believed the report would be brought forward to a General Committee meeting in May. The Committee Clerk will confirm the meeting date and notify stakeholders.	Confirm the meeting date that Markham’s Animal Service Committee Model will go to the General Committee and notify stakeholders – Laura Gold
5. New Business	A. <u>Membership Update</u> The Committee Clerk reported that three applicants to the Animal Care Committee will be interviewed this Friday. The Committee requested that Council declare a position on the Committee vacant as a result of the member not attending meetings for over one year and staff not being able to contact the member in question. The Chair agreed to try and contact the member by email to explain the Committee’s actions and to thank her for her service on the Committee. Moved by Jody Greenlaw Seconded by Pam Young That the position of Ms. Jennie Kavanagh from the Animal Care Committee be declared vacant and a replacement member be appointed. CARRIED B. <u>Fundraising Calendar</u> Caroline Lane declared a conflict of interest, as her husband owns one of the businesses that submitted a quotation for the fundraising calendar. She did not participate in the discussion nor vote on this matter.	

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	The Committee reviewed the quotations for the printing of the fundraising calendar. The Committee agreed to grant the contract to Imagine 121. Moved by Danielle Duncan Seconded by Terri Daniels That the Animal Care Committee award the contract to produce the 2014 fundraising calendar to Imagine 121. CARRIED The Committee discussed charging \$15 for this year's fundraising calendar, as the price per unit will be over \$10. It was noted that a discount could possibly be provided to patrons who buy multiple calendars. Further discussion on this matter was deferred to the Calendar Sub-Committee. C. <u>The Opening News: Feline Predators</u> The Committee briefly reviewed the report "Feline Predators". D. <u>Request Letter</u> The Committee reviewed a letter of request from a resident to make an exemption to the current by-law to allow for the resident to have a micro/pot belly pig as a pet. The Committee requested that the resident submit an application and that staff then come back to the Committee with more information. E. <u>Diagram of Cat Colony</u>	Arrange a sub-committee meeting to discuss the fundraising calendar – Danielle Duncan Bring back more information regarding resident's request to have a micro/pot belly pig as a pet – Christopher Alexander

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	A diagram showing how a cat colony grows exponentially if the cats are not controlled. It was recommended that this diagram could be re-created and included in the fundraising calendar. F. Presentation at Urban Pet Forum Esther Attard was acknowledged for her presentation at the Urban Pet Forum	Include diagram of cat colony in calendar – All Committee Members
6. Date of the Next Meeting	May 15, 2013 - 5:30 p.m., Ontario Room	
7. Adjournment	The Animal Care Committee adjourned at 7:00 p.m.	