

Animal Care Committee
August 15, 2012
Ontario Room
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Attendance: Councillor Valerie Burke, Chair, Chris Alexander, Esther Attard, Kathy Clark, Terri Daniels, Denielle Duncan, Jody Greenlaw, Furhait Kashmiri, Mi Ly and Rhiannon Lane.
Regrets: Janet Andrews, Jeannie Kavanagh, Caroline Lane and Bill Wiles

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Item
1. Call to Order	The Animal Care Committee convened at 5:32 p.m. with Councillor Valerie Burke presiding as Chair.	
2. Minutes of the July 18, 2012 Animal Care Committee Meeting	The Committee welcomed Mi Ly and Furhait Kashmiri, New Committee Members. Moved by Cathy Clark Seconded by Esther Attard That the Minutes from the July 18, 2012 Animal Care Committee be adopted as presented. CARRIED.	
3. Business Arising From the Minutes	Staff advised that the Shrine Circus was held at the First Markham Place from August 2 - 6, 2012. During this time the OSPCA conducted (2) inspections and found no violations. According to the OSPCA the circus had (8) horses and (2) elephants. The Committee expressed its concern that the circus had exotic animals. Members thought that modern circuses did not need exotic animals. Circus du Soleil was provided as an example of an animal friendly circus. Staff advised that Markham cannot stop a circus from coming to Markham as circuses fall under the jurisdiction of the province. Further discussion on this matter was deferred to the next meeting.	Add Shrine Circus to next meeting agenda – Laura Gold

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Item
4. Animal Control Program Update	<u>A. Trap Neuter and Return Program</u> Christopher Alexander reported that the City will be unable to trap neuter and return (TNR) cats from the IBM site until the fall, as the OSPCA does not currently have the space to house the cats while recovering from being spayed and neutered. It was noted that the City TNR 17 cats from a property in Markham. <u>B. Adoption Update</u> It was advised that the adoption days at the Stiver Mill Farmers Market have been a success. There has been (4) adoption days held at the farmers market to date. <u>C. OSPCA</u> Christopher Alexander reported that the City will be integrating its computer system with the OSPCA. This will help improve animal control services in Markham. The system will allow the city to: 1. dispatch animal control calls directly to the OSPCA; 2. link enforcement data to the corresponding shelter data; and 3. track animals throughout the system. <u>Markham OSPCA Statistics</u> There was a discussion on the OSPCA's January to May 2012 statistics. The Committee noted that the euthanasia rate had dropped during this period. Staff advised that the OSPCA has implemented a number of programs to lower its euthanasia rate. One of the programs includes transferring cats to northern shelters that do not have as many cats due to harsher winters. Staff advised that the City will receive the June 2012 OSPCA statistics by the end of week. The Committee questioned if it could obtain the 2010 OSPCA statistics, as they are unavailable on the City's website. Christopher Alexander advised he would investigate this possibility. A Member noted that the City of Hamilton is using the program Helping Lost Pets to track lost pets in the Hamilton area. There was a discussion on whether Markham should	Investigate whether the 2010 OSPCA Markham Statistics can be obtained – Christopher Alexander

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Item
	use this website to track lost pets. Markham currently has a link to the Helping Lost Pets website on its animal control webpage. Staff reported that the OSPCA is trying to rescue 25 rabbits from a hoarder's home in Markham. The City is in the process of obtaining a court order to enter the home. <u>Animal Licence Renewal</u> Christopher Alexander reported that residents are now able to renew their animal licence online and will soon be able to obtain new animal licences online. Residents that do not have a computer will still be able to obtain an animal licence through traditional methods. Members questioned whether residents will still receive notification with respect to renewing their animal licences. Staff advised that in 2013 residents will receive notification by mail and that in 2014 residents will receive notification by email. It was noted that there is now a single fee for the animal licence. The animal licence fee structure was changed in order to simplify the process for online processing. <u>Life Time Animal Tags</u> The City is investigating the possibility of issuing lifetime animal tags rather than replacing the tags each year when a resident renews their animal licence. Residents would be able to replace their damaged or lost tag for a minimal fee. This would create an efficiency for the organization by saving staff time and by reducing postal costs. <u>Loyalty Cards</u> Staff are in the process of issuing an RFP for a animal control loyalty card, which will be provided to residents when obtaining their animal licence. It was noted that the cost of the animal licence with the loyalty card would be from \$25.00 to \$30.00. The increase in the cost of the licence is based on the cost of providing animal control services in Markham and the added value the loyalty card will provide.	

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Item
	There committee discussed the following ways to encourage residents to licence their pet: • Promoting the benefits of licensing your pet (note: staff will be updating the website to promote the benefits of licensing your pet); • Requiring that all pets being spayed or neutered at an OSPCA clinic be licensed; • Requiring all Markham pets adopted from the OSPCA be licensed (note: all Markham pets adopted by the OSPCA are required to be licensed). <u>Animal Control By-Law</u> There was a discussion on the possibility of having the City amend its animal control by-law to have a no cat limit. The by-law could require households with more than (4) cats to spay/neuter their cats. Esther Attard was requested to obtain more information on having a no cat limit. As the City of Toronto was investigating a similar change to its animal control by-law. <u>Feasibility Study</u> A report on the animal control feasibility study is scheduled to go to the General Committee this fall.	Obtain more information on having a no cat limit – Esther Attard
5. Events	<u>Markham Fair</u> The Committee Clerk was requested to email Denielle Duncan the details regarding Markham Fair. <u>Thornhill Village Festival</u> The Committee agreed it would participate in the parade at the Thornhill Village Festival rather than having a booth. Caroline Lane was requested to coordinate the Committee's participation in the parade.	Email Denielle Duncan the Markham Fair details – Laura Gold Arrange for the Committee to participate in the Thornhill Festival parade – Caroline Lane
6. New Business	A. Meeting with Liz White and Barry McKay on Human Wildlife Conflicts It was reported that staff meet with Liz White and Barry McKay to discuss human wildlife conflicts in Markham. It was decided that the City would first focus on resolving its wildlife conflict with geese as a pilot project. This would involve applying best practices and finding a sustainable solution to deter the geese from both Markham	Invite Brad Gates to a future meeting to discuss regulating wildlife specialist – Laura Gold

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Item
	Civic Centre and Toogood Pond. It was thought that the success of this project could lead to bigger projects. Additionally, Markham will look at the displacement of wildlife due to development. Measures could be incorporated into the planning process to manage the displacement of wildlife due to development as a long term goal. The Committee discussed how wildlife removal specialists could be regulated. It was noted that it would be challenging to regulate wildlife specialist without the Province creating guidelines for municipalities to follow. The Committee requested that Brad Gates, President AAA Gates' Wildlife Control, be invited to a future meeting to discuss regulating wildlife specialist. B. Business Plan Update Chris Alexander reviewed the 2012 Animal Care Committee business plan, advising which items have been completed to date. An updated business plan will be circulated to the Committee. C. Montreal Animal Control By-Law The Committee discussed Montreal's new Animal Control by-law. The Committee expressed its concern that the by-law is too harsh and that pets may be unnecessarily euthanized.	Circulate updated 2012 business plan to Committee – Christopher Alexander
7. Date of the Next Meeting	September 19, 2012, 5:30 p.m., Ontario Room	
8. Adjournment	The Animal Care Committee adjourned at 7:05p.m.	