

Animal Care Committee
July 18, 2012
Ontario Room
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

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

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Item
1. Call to Order	The Animal Care Committee convened at 5:35 p.m. with Janet Andrews presiding as Chair. The Committee welcomed Furbait Kashmiri, New Committee Member.	
2. Minutes of the June 20, 2012 Animal Care Committee Meeting	Moved by Cathy Clark Seconded by Rhiannon Lane That the Minutes from the June 20, 2012 Animal Care Committee be adopted as presented. CARRIED.	
3. Business Arising From the Minutes	The Committee had a discussion on the Shrine Circus. It was reported that a building permit has been obtained for the erection of the circus tent and that staff will be inspecting the Circus's animal facilities, noting that staff can check-up on the animals at anytime. The Committee requested that staff ensure the animals have lots of water and are properly sheltered from the sun. Further discussion on the Shrine Circus was deferred until after the circus has been held in Markham.	Ensure animals at the Shrine Circus have lots of water and are properly sheltered from the sun – Christopher Alexander Add the Shrine Circus to a meeting agenda after the Circus has been held in Markham – Laura Gold

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4. Animal Control Program Update	<u>A. Trap Neuter and Return Program</u> Christopher Alexander reported that 13 feral cats were trap neutered and returned (TNR) to a Markham property. It was noted that there were about 3 cats that were uncatchable on the property. It was advised that Markham will start TNR feral cats from a property on Allstate Parkway. It was thought that there were only a few feral cats on the property. It was reported that staff were resolving the aftercare issues with respect to the feral cats on the IBM site. Once this is sorted out the cats can be TNR. Staff suggested paying rescue groups to care for the cats or bringing them to the OSPCA to be cared for during their recovery. Christopher Alexander will speak with Danielle Duncan regarding the possibility of paying rescue groups to care for the cats during their recovery. <u>B. Adoption Update</u> Christopher Alexander advised that bi-monthly adoption dates are being scheduled to be held at the Stiver Mill Farmer's Market. The community's response to the adoption days has been very positive. The Committee was encouraged to volunteer on adoption days. The Committee agreed to send a Thank you note to Jeanne Ker-Hornell for providing space to this Committee and to the OSPCA. Christopher Alexander agreed to draft a Thank you letter. The following ways to increase the adoption rate were discussed: 1) Having an adoption bus where residents can go visit the animals for adoption at the OSPCA animal shelter in Newmarket; and, 2) Dropping the price of animals that are not being adopted to encourage the adoption of the animals; and further, 3) Increasing the number of cats permitted per household in the City of Markham.	Contact Danielle Duncan with respect to paying rescue groups to care for feral cats that have been TNR during their recovery– Christopher Alexander Consider volunteering on Adoption Days – All Committee Members Draft a thank you letter for Jeanne Ker-Hornell – Christopher Alexander

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	<u>C. OSPCA</u> Christopher Alexander reported that there was a crocodile sighting at the Milne Dam Conservation Area. The OSPCA searched the area, but no crocodile was found. It is believed that the sighting may have been of a pet that resembles a smaller crocodile. There was a discussion on how the community can be educated on living with wildlife. As there is believed to be a den of coyotes living in a ravine in East Markham. A video of the coyote sighting was displayed to the Committee. The OSPCA was trying to provide the coyote with food containing antibiotics in it, as it has mange, a skin disease, which causes loss of fur. A feel good story about how a chocolate Labrador was picked up by a By-Law Officer and successfully returned to its owner was shared with the Committee. The Committee commended the By-Law Officer Brandon Sandler and agreed to send him a thank you email. Cathy Clark agreed to write the email. It was requested that Bill Wiles and Members of Council be Cc on the email. Moved by Janet Andrews Seconded by Caroline Lane That the Animal Care Committee commend By-Law Officer Brandon Sandler for going above and beyond the call of duty to rescue a lost dog on June 28 2012; and, That this resolution be forwarded to Members of Council. CARRIED. <u>OSPCA Statistics</u> The Committee viewed the April stats for the OPSCA. The Committee questioned whether the OSPCA has the manpower to care for the animals coming into the shelter. As it is often the lack of manpower rather than the lack of space that leads to animals being putdown.	Write a thank you email to Brandon Sandler for rescuing a lost dog. Cc. Bill Wiles and Mayor and Members of Council on the email – Cathy Clark

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	The Committee was concerned with the OSPCA's high euthanasia rate of cats. Chris Alexander reported that he will be having monthly meetings with the OSPCA Manager and weekly meetings with the OSPCA Officer. Any questions this Committee has regarding the OSPCA may be addressed at these meetings. <u>Feasibility Study</u> Christopher Alexander advised that a draft of the Animal Control Feasibility Study has been submitted to City staff. The final version should be completed by the end of July. The report will be brought forward to Council prior to it being released to this Committee. The Committee requested that it be advised when the report is being brought forward to Council. <u>Animal Licence Renewal</u> Christopher Alexander reported that the new online process for issuing animal licences is anticipated to be launched on August 13, 2012. On a going forward basis there will be a flat fee for obtaining an animal licence. Although staff are still deciding whether a seniors discount will be provided.	Advise the Committee when the report is being brought forward to Council – Christopher Alexander/Laura Gold
5. Events	<u>Unionville Festival</u> The following donation was submitted to the Committee Clerk to be deposited: \$47.92 – Unionville Festival <u>Markham Fair</u> The Committee Clerk reported that a booth at Markham Fair has been booked and that By-Law's will staff the booth on the Thursday and Friday. More details will be provided at the next meeting. <u>Thornhill Village Festival</u> The Committee agreed to have a booth at the Thornhill Village Festival on September 15, 2012. Caroline Lane was requested to coordinate the schedule for manning the booth	Provide more details on Markham Fair at the next meeting – Laura Gold Coordinate schedule for manning the booth at the Thornhill Festival – Caroline Lane

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6. New Business	at the event. A. <u>Banning the Sale of Cats and Dogs at Pet Stores</u> The Committee was provided with several articles on banning the sale of cats and dogs at pet stores. It discussed the pros and cons associated with banning the sale of cats and dogs at Pet Stores in Markham and agreed that it should be banned. This Committee also thought that Markham should consider banning the sale of small animals and birds as a next step. Moved by Janet Andrews Seconded by Terri Daniels That the Animal Care Committee request that Council direct Staff to prepare a report on banning the sale of cats and dogs at pet stores in Markham; and, That the report include information on the implications of banning the sale of small animals and birds at pet stores in Markham. CARRIED. B. <u>The TRCA Framework for Identifying Strategic Areas for Improving Landscape Connectivity for Wildlife Movement</u> ‘The TRCA Framework for Identifying Strategic Areas for Improving Landscape Connectivity for Wildlife Movement’ was provided to the Committee to show some of the work that is being done in support of wildlife. C. <u>Fur Bearer Defenders 2nd Annual Life Wildlife Conference 2012</u> Information on the 2012 Fur Bearer Defenders 2nd Annual Life Wildlife Conference was provided to the Committee.	Request Council to direct staff to prepare a report (1) on the banning and sale of cats and dogs at pet stores in Markham; and (2) providing information on the implications of banning the sale of small animals and birds at Markham pet Stores – Laura Gold/ Christopher Alexander

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	D. <u>Toronto Humane Society</u> Terri Daniels reported that the Toronto Humane Society has opened a new low cost spay and neuter clinic in Toronto. The clinic will model the OSPCA spay and neuter clinic.	
7. Date of the Next Meeting	August 15, 2012, 5:30 p.m., Ontario Room	
8. Adjournment	The Animal Care Committee adjourned at 7:10 p.m.	