

ANIMAL CARE COMMITTEE

November 16, 2011

ONTARIO ROOM

5:30 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.

Attendance: Janet Andrews, Esther Attard, Kathy Clark, Terri Daniels, Denielle Duncan, Jody Greenlaw, Jeannie Kavanagh, Caroline Lane, Rhiannon Lane, Yasuko Naka, Bill Wiles and Laura Gold, Committee Clerk

Regrets: Councillor Valerie Burke

Item	Discussion	Action Items
1. CALL TO ORDER	The Animal Care Committee convened at 5:30 p.m. with Denielle Duncan presiding as Chair.	
2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES	The list was revised on page 2 of the minutes to eliminate duplication. Moved by Janet Andrews Seconded by Jody Greenlaw That the October 19, 2011 Animal Care Committee Minutes be adopted as amended. CARRIED.	
3. NEXT MEETING DATE	The Committee agreed to move the next meeting date from December 21 to December 7, at 5:30 p.m. in the Ontario Room. The meeting will be extended a half an hour to hold a holiday celebration.	
4. TERMS OF REFERENCE	The Committee will review the Terms of Reference and report back at the next meeting. The Committee Clerk was requested to email an electronic version of the Terms of Reference to the Committee.	Email Terms of reference to Committee – Laura Gold
5. BUSINESS PLAN	The Committee reviewed the draft 2012 Business Plan, noting it was important to set realistic goals for 2012. It was agreed that the Committee would review the plan in greater detail before the next meeting. An update on the plan will be provided at the next meeting.	Provide update on Business Plan - Committee

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6. FUNDRAISING CALENDAR	There was a discussion on the fundraising calendar. The Committee wanted more information on when it would be able to have online payments for the fundraising calendar. The Committee Clerk was requested to follow up on this matter and report back.	Follow up on online payment of fundraising calendar – Laura Gold
7. ANIMAL CONTROL UPDATE	Mr. Bill Wiles, Manager of By-Laws & Enforcement, reviewed the report entitled “Extension of Animal Services Contract-January 2012 to June 2013”. It was noted that the report will be brought forward to the General Committee in late November or in early December. The report is currently being reviewed by senior staff and will be available on the Town’s website the Friday afternoon prior to the General Committee meeting the report is being reviewed at. The report recommends that the OSPCA contract be extended until June 2013. The Committee questioned if wildlife services would be included in the contract. It was confirmed that wildlife services is included in the contract. A Member questioned if the OSPCA is licensed to deal with wildlife. It was explained that the OSPCA can legally deal with wildlife, as long as the animal is moved within 24 hours. Staff advised that the cost of the Town’s contract with the OSPCA is fixed and would not change if wildlife was excluded from the contract. The Committee questioned if the OSPCA is willing to bring wildlife to Toronto Wildlife. Staff advised that to date Toronto Wildlife has been unwilling to accept Markham animals. Currently, the Town pays various wildlife rehabilitation groups on an as need basis and the Toronto Wildlife does not wish to operate that way. It was suggested that the Town consider adding a clause to its contract with the OPSCA regarding accountability and transparency. Staff advised that a consultant is being hired to look at best practices for animal control in Markham. There was an inquiry on the status of the request for proposal to hire a consultant to conduct a feasibility study on the best animal control option for Markham. It was reported that the study options are be reviewed as the quotes to conduct the study came in much higher than expected. Staff may reduce the scope	Bill Wiles to provide Town’s process/model for wildlife services

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	of the study and do some of the work in-house. The Committee made a correction to the report, noting euthanasia rates are high due to a number of factors, rather than due to the number of feral cats brought to the shelter. It was recommended that all of these factors be included in the report. The Committee questioned if the OSPCA is working with rescue groups. It was confirmed that the OSPCA is now working with or has plans to work with rescue groups. The Committee felt that the public need to be educated on this matter. It was questioned if the OSPCA was willing to work with the Town to improve adoption promotion and rates. It was confirmed that the OSPCA will work with the Town to improve adoption promotion and rates. It was reported that the OSPCA is willing to hold adoption days at Town facilities, noting Markville mall was not interested in holding adoption days at the mall. It was recommended that the Committee put in its business plan the target number of adoption days to be held in 2012. The adoption days could be open to rescue groups. Staff advised that the OSPCA is generally very good at handling complaints. However, it was recommended that inquiries to the OSPCA should be made through Markham's Contact Centre so that the request can be tracked. Residents can leave a message, send an email or call the emergency hotline after hours. The Committee noted that this needs to be communicated to Markham residents. Mr. Wiles asked if any of the Members would like a hard copy of the OSPCA report. Janet Andrews advised that she would like a hard copy of the OSPCA report. It was reported that staff will continue to study the Calgary model for delivering animal services. In learning from the Calgary model, the Town would like to generate more revenue from its animal licenses. It was questioned if the 130 hours a week provided to the Town by the OSPCA for	Incorporate adoption days into 2012 Animal Care Committee Business Plan - Committee Provide Hard Copy of OSPCA report to Janet Andrews – Bill Wiles

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	animal control can be used towards other initiatives. It was confirmed that the hours can be changed or used towards other initiatives if both parties mutually agree (e.g. the OSPCA changed its hours prescribed in the contract to better cover peak times and officer hours can be used for adoption days). It was recommended that the Town receive the OSPCA statistics for all municipalities rather than just for Markham. This would provide a better indication of the OSPCA's operations. It was questioned if Town Officers can receive similar training to the OSPCA Officers. It was confirmed that Town Officers are sent to OSPCA training as part of their regular training. Moved by Janet Andrews Seconded by Esther Attard That the Animal Care Committee concur with the recommendations set forth in the draft report entitled "Extension of Animal Services Contract-January 2012 to June 2013" on the understanding that staff undertake the work outlined in the report during the period of the contract extension. CARRIED.	See if OSPCA will provide statistics for all municipalities – Bill Wiles
8. TRAP NEUTER AND RETURN UPDATE	It was noted that an advertisement has been placed in the paper advertising the trap, neuter and return program. Members were advised that phone calls are answered by Christy Lehman and inquires that do not fall under Markham's TNR program are re-directed.	
9. Events	The Committee noted it would like to participate in both the Santa Claus Parade and the Unionville Parade. The Committee Clerk was requested to obtain information on	Provide the Committee with information on

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	participating in the Santa Claus Parade.	participating in the Santa Claus Parade – Laura Gold
10. NEW BUSINESS	A. <u>Phyllis the Beagle Cross</u> An update was provided on Phyllis the Beagle Cross. It was noted that the resident was provided with the wrong information by the OSPCA, as the form was completed in-correctly and because it was the long weekend. The error was caught the Tuesday after the long weekend. Staff is still waiting for the response on the issue pertaining to the microchip. B. <u>Reducing the Number of Geese Nests at Toogood Pond</u> This item was deferred until more information is provided on this matter.	Get more information from Councillor Hamilton on reducing the geese nests at Toogood Pond – Laura Gold
11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING	The next meeting of the Animal Care Committee will be held on December 7, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.	
12. ADJOURNMENT	The Animal Care Committee adjourned at 8:00 p.m.	

Ongoing Action Items

1. Participate in Feral Cat Day next year.
2. Have a brainstorming session regarding pet adoptions at a future meeting
3. Invite new Executive Director of the OSPCA to an Animal Care Committee meeting in the new year
4. Schedule a tour of the OSPCA Animal Shelter in the new year