



DOMESTIC AND FERAL CAT COMMITTEE

**MINUTES
February 17, 2016**

- PRESENT:** Linda Felix, Spay Day HRM Society
Sonya Higgins, Healing Animal SCARS
Nancy Mansfield, Bide Awhile
Dr. Barry MacEachern, Burnside Veterinary Hospital
Dr. Hugh Chisholm, Independent Vet/Tuxedo Party
Sandra Flemming, SPCA
Hope Swinimer, Homeward Bound City Pound
David Currie, Nova Scotia Bird Society
Dr. Ulrich vom Hagen, Department of Natural Resources
- STAFF:** Andrea MacDonald
Lori Scolaro
- REGRETS:** Dr. Melissa Burgoyne, Nova Scotia Veterinary Medical Association
- ABSENT:** Open Positions – 2 Citizens at Large

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1. Introductions
2. Review of Terms of Reference
3. Jurisdictional Scan Results
4. Discussion on what the focus should be for possible funding as per the Motion to Council from August 4, 2015.

The meeting commenced at 2:05 PM.

1. Introductions

Members in attendance introduced themselves. Members were advised of the regrets of Dr. Melissa Burgoyne who will represent the Nova Scotia Veterinary Medical Association.

2. Review of Terms of Reference

No concerns regarding the Terms of Reference. Members were advised that the Clerk's Office will be posting publicly for the 2 vacant Citizens at Large positions. Staff will advise the members when the posting will be advertised.

3. Jurisdictional Scan Results

A draft copy of the Jurisdictional Scan Results was provided to the group. Members were asked to review and provide any additional information they may have relative to cats by Feb. 26/16 to Natalie Matheson. Members were advised that Ms. Felix's information was added to the document in advance, as noted by the asterisks. It was noted the Jurisdictional Scan did not take into consideration what individual vet hospitals are doing in conjunction with cats. Several members mentioned additional information they are aware of relative to other jurisdictions. Staff encouraged members to forward the information so we have an accurate depiction as to what is happening across Canada in other jurisdictions.

4. Motion to Council – Possible source of funding

A general discussion was held in regards to where the focus should be for potential funding. This was in response to the Motion of Council from August 4 2015. Staff is currently in the process of writing a report for the Audit and Finance Standing Committee and was looking for community engagement which is a requirement of the report. Staff was looking for clarification and perspective relative to the focus and key area(s) requiring funding. Members felt a TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return) program is where the most funding is needed; however discussions of a possible educational program and additional funding for low cost spay and neuter programs would be beneficial as well.

Some members advised the group of their successes they have had to date relative to TNR and spay and neutering. Discussion also included if a wide scale TNR program versus targeted areas was the best approach. In addition, clarification was provided regarding the assessment of all cats captured and whether a cat was adoptable or returned. Members expressed concerns if a targeted area business plan with goals and potential incomes is not presented, HRM will not be able to rationalize the funding and provide money for a TNR program. A member suggested that eligibility for who qualifies for the TNR program be determined in conjunction with the funding.

It was determined the agenda for the next meeting would revolve around education. Dr. Chisholm will be chairing this meeting, March 30, 2016 at 12:30pm.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45PM.