



DOMESTIC AND FERAL CAT COMMITTEE

**MINUTES
May 4, 2016**

PRESENT: Dr. Melissa Burgoyne, Nova Scotia Veterinary Medical Association
Sonya Higgins, Healing Animal SCARS
Dr. Barry MacEachern, Burnside Veterinary Hospital
Dr. Hugh Chisholm, Independent Vet/Tuxedo Party
Hope Swinimer, Homeward Bound City Pound
David Currie, Nova Scotia Bird Society
Sandra Flemming, SPCA
Linda Felix, Spay Day HRM Society

STAFF: Andrea MacDonald
Lori Scolaro

REGRETS: Dr. Ulrich vom Hagen, Department of Natural Resources
Nancy Mansfield, Bide Awhile

ABSENT: Open Positions – 2 Citizens at Large

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The meeting commenced at 12:38 PM.

2. Approval of Last Minutes- March 30, 2016

The previous meeting minutes were circulated by email and in the meeting, moved by Sonya Higgins, seconded by Dr. Barry MacEachern that the minutes of March 30, 2016 be approved as presented. The meeting is being chaired by Dr. Melissa Burgoyne.

3. Administrative Order One

Andrea MacDonald explained that Administrative Order One covers the rules for how meetings are conducted. The etiquette for absenteeism as covered in Administrative Order One is to send a regrets email to the minute taker, Natalie, prior to the meeting so that committee members can be advised at the meeting. However, you may send a delegate to the meeting and we request you email in advance to let us know who will be taking your place. The Order does state that if a member is absent for 3 consecutive meetings they have “vacated their seat” and a motion would be put on the floor to release them from their duties. The delegate should be from the same organization that you represent.

4. Round table discussion of priorities

The Chair recommended that members list their top 3-5 priorities and this will give us a base to discuss further.

As listed on the white board these are what DFCC has identified as top priorities:

- **Trap-Neuter-Return 6 votes**
- **Education(Research) 6 votes**
- **Licensing of cats (potentially include microchipping) 5 votes**
- Spay/Neuter Subsidized 1 vote
- Cats included in Animal Services 1 vote
- 72 hours-Euthanasia 1 vote
- No Roaming (or at least no unaltered roaming) 2 vote
- Rescue Group Licensing Standards 1 vote
- Cat Sanctuary 1 vote
- Change process of 311 1 vote
- Funding 1 vote

Committee members then discussed further what they felt were the most important components of each of their top 3 priorities.

TNR- Trap Neuter Return

Making of a protocol- suggested that all rescues follow the same rules; Protocol may assist in recommendation to Council for Oct. 2016. Suggested members create an actual protocol document for future use.

- Creating short term and long term goals for feral cats in HRM
- Testing-FIV and FLeukemia; euthanasia on positives
- Microchip, discussed however determined not a priority; common/seen often in jurisdictional scan
- Vaccination- FVRCP; Rabies and Leukemia
- Flea Treatment-optional
- De-worming-optional
- A focus on specific areas
- Ear notching rather than ear tipping
- Pregnant cats late vs. early term; abortion
- Colony caretaker/management
- Spay/Neuter vs. vasectomized

Education

- Responsible pet owner
 - Spay/neuter
 - Keep inside/controlled
 - Identification- collar tag or microchip
- Update to www.halifax.ca website
- Creating rack cards for cats; designed by committee members printed by HRM.
- School initiatives
- Metro transit
 - Rear of bus or side
 - Inside advertisement
 - Bus stops
- Events- either organizing or joining
- Metro Housing
- Make contacting with Apartment Companies/Property Management
- Information in Welcome Wagon
- Community Response Officers-Police
- Public Education of Health Risks (parasites, round worm, zoonotic, toxoplasmosis)
- Impact on environment

- Mail drop/door knocker
- Homeward Bound microchipping clinic
- How do we show people there is value in cats and change their mindset

Our third priority licensing and responsible pet ownership will be covered in our next meeting.

5. Update on Volunteers for Citizens at Large

The application is up on the website and will be closing soon. We hope to have the new members join us for our next meeting.

The motion to adjourn was moved by David Currie and seconded by Hope Swinimer. Next meeting is to be chaired by David Currie. Meeting adjourned at 2:26pm.

Next meeting: June 29th at 1:00pm.

Next Agenda Items: Licensing/ Responsible Pet Ownership and what should be on the rack card.