

<b>TO:</b>	<b>CHAIR AND MEMBERS COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBOURHOODS COMMITTEE MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 27, 2011</b>
<b>FROM:</b>	<b>JAY STANFORD, M.A.; M.P.A. DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS &amp; SOLID WASTE</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>STATUS – ADDRESSING PUBLIC COMMENTS AND DIRECTION - EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF ANIMAL WELFARE INITIATIVES</b>

**RECOMMENDATION**

That, on the recommendation of the Director, Environmental Programs and Solid Waste, the following report **BE RECEIVED** for information.

**PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER**

Relevant reports that can be found at <http://www.london.ca/Council/meetingpackages.htm> include:

- Public Participation Meeting on Expanding the Scope of Animal Welfare Initiatives as Part of the City’s Animal Services Program, Community & Neighbourhoods Committee (CNC) July 19, 2011, Agenda Item #22
- Expanding the Scope of Animal Welfare Initiatives as Part of the City’s Animal Services Program, CNC) June 14, 2011, Agenda Item #25
- Upcoming Major Animal Services Reports, Community & Neighbourhoods Committee (CNC) May 17, 2011, Agenda Item #16
- Update on Major Upcoming Committee Reports and Major Council Approved Projects, CNC Meeting, February 1, 2011, Agenda Item #4
- Updates on Requests, New Initiatives and Priorities for Animal Care, Control & Welfare in the City of London, ETC Meeting, February 8, 2010, Agenda Item #8.
- City of London Animal Care & Control Program Report of Statistics and Performance Indicators for 2007 and 2008, ETC Meeting, November 16, 2009, Agenda Item #15.

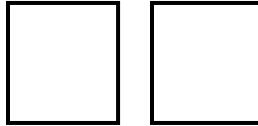
**BACKGROUND**

**PURPOSE AND CONTEXT:**

On July 19, 2011 a Public Participation Meeting (PPM) was held before CNC to receive input regarding the City staff report entitled Expanding the Scope of Animal Welfare Initiatives as Part of the City’s Animal Services Program. The meeting was attended by over 150 Londoners and approximately 30 people shared their written and verbal comments that night with CNC members and City staff.

The purpose of this report is to provide a brief update on activities since the PPM and to highlight that City staff require more time to review and prepare comments on the input received including new information received since July 19. Since the PPM, City staff have received several requests as to the status of the Council’s recommendations and related matters. A more complete update will be provided to CNC at the next meeting (October 18, 2011).

Perhaps most important to note is that many of the comments provided at the PPM referred to the “Calgary Model.” With that in mind, Jay Stanford visited Calgary and had meetings with staff from the City of Calgary Animal Services Division, Calgary Humane Society (CHS) and MEOW Foundation. In addition, site visits included facilities owned by the City of Calgary and CHS along with visits to 7 off-leash dog areas (1 with a fence and 6 without fences). More details on this visit will be part of the next report and the ongoing work on this program improvement plan.



**DISCUSSION:**

**City of London Vision and Mission Statement for Animal Services**

<b>The Vision:</b>	London, a city where all pets have a caring, respectful and responsible home.
<b>The Mission:</b>	To increase awareness, partnerships & community capacity building by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ensuring by-laws protect and support Londoners, visitors and companion animals,</li> <li>2. Promoting responsible actions for individuals, families and organizations, and</li> <li>3. Supporting community animal welfare initiatives.</li> </ol>

Listed below are very brief updates on a number of the key items highlighted at the PPM and recent Council direction from two meetings including identifying items that can move forward in 2011 and 2012

**Spay/Neuter Programs**

In 2011, funding assistance has been provided to spay/neuter approximately 215 community (feral) cats and another 220 cats and 35 dogs through our low income subsidy initiative. These numbers put us on track to equal or surpass the number of 570 in 2010.

The London Animal Care Centre (LACC) has recently opened an on-site surgery area at the shelter for performing spay/neuters including paediatric spay/neuters for LACC's homeless, adoptable pets. Previously these surgeries were performed off-site. This creates less stress for the animals as they do not have to be transported from a vet clinic post surgery allowing for a quicker recovery time and more importantly facilitates the pet to move into the adoption room earlier since there is no wait for appointment times.

City staff continue to evaluate the efforts of other municipalities through the province and country to establish a benchmark for best practices. The key to a successful spay neuter initiatives requires the ability to handle volume. The following highlights a number of spay neuter facilities we are tracking in other jurisdiction:

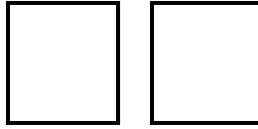
- Newmarket Ontario Society of Prevention to Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA) had performed approximately 5,000 surgeries in the first year alone. This is a fee-for-service program open to anyone in Ontario.
- Lincoln County Humane Society, which services the Niagara Region, opened its \$2.5 million spay neuter facility in September. They anticipate being able to spay/neuter 2,500 animals per year.
- Windsor/Essex County Humane Society has started construction of a spay/neuter clinic which is scheduled to open in late fall 2011.
- Toronto Humane Society has begun fundraising for a spay/neuter facility to be added to their River Street location.

**Community-based Adoption Initiatives**

Staff are working on a plan to establish smaller adoption events in different areas of the city. This includes locations like malls, pet stores or in areas of high visibility. These efforts are intended to increase the visibility of the need for more homeless pets to be adopted.

The City, a number of animal rescue partners working through the Cooperative for Companion Animals, and Oxbury Mall have teamed up to develop a Furry Friends Adoption Shoppe to provide a storefront for adoptable cats. Since its inception there have been 30 cats adopted and identified plus approximately 5 out of town adoptions. Currently this Shoppe is open from 10:00am to 5:00pm on Saturdays only. Expanded hours are part of the 2011 plans noted above.

On October 19-21, 2011, the City of London has offered facilities to the OSPCA to host Meet Your Match (MYM) training for all pounds, shelters and groups using the program in the Guelph/Windsor corridor. LACC staff made arrangements for this initiative and will be in attendance as they use this program. MYM program evaluates the cat's behaviour and personality and matches the pet to the adopter's personality and lifestyle. LACC hosted the OSPCA for some initial training for MYM at the shelter. Several shelters were in attendance from the region. The training in October will focus on dogs.



### **Animal Foster and Adoption Facility or Facilities**

This item shares a strong relationship with the item above. Through posters and signage campaigns, the City of London is also trying to increase the numbers of foster homes for pets. These posters and signs have been displayed throughout the city and specifically targeted for display at the Furry Friends Adoption Shoppe, Pawlooza and other adoption events. The foster home campaign will become more visible with the work above.

There is ongoing research on establishing a large scale foster facility or sanctuary especially for cats in the London. The following highlights some examples we are following in other jurisdictions:

- MEOW Foundation, a large registered charity focused on stray and abandoned cats in Calgary (population 1,091,000), has a shelter with space for up to 75 cats and network of 50 to 60 foster homes. Calgary Humane Society is the largest animal service provider operating in Calgary.
- Richmond Animal Protection Society (RAPS) in Richmond, British Columbia (population 200,000) operates a sanctuary on 9 acres of land with a capacity of up to 900 cats in care.
- As reported July 19, 2011 by the Ottawa Humane Society (OHS), two weeks after they cut the ribbon on a new, state of the art, expanded facility it was announced that it was already at capacity. OHS had taken in 531 cats and 175 dogs.
- As reported August 24, 2011 by the Nova Scotia SPCA, the SPCA Newfoundland & Labrador, the Greater Moncton SPCA, the PEI Humane Society, the New Brunswick SPCA, the Fredericton SPCA and the Nova Scotia SPCA are faced by an enormous strain and capacity limitations, primarily due to stray and abandoned cats.

### **Initiatives for 2011**

As directed by Council, City staff are identifying animal welfare initiatives that could be started or expanded in 2011 and 2012. The list includes:

- Spat/neuter programs (see above)
- Community-based adoption programs (see above)
- Animal foster and adoption facility or facilities (see above)
- Briefing details to be submitted to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) regarding municipal perspectives on the future if animal services
- Responsible pet purchasing - preparing details to help Londoners make better decisions when it comes to obtaining a new pet
- Preparation of requests for expression of interest (REOI) for components of the City's future, more comprehensive animal services program

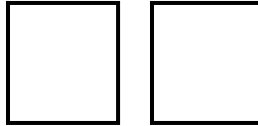
### **Staff Resources**

The primary reason why a more thorough report is not available at this time is that staff resources to work on this additional work have been limited. Day to day activities associated with the overall animal services program and, in particular, animal welfare, tend to consume the majority of available staff time. Senior Management within the Planning, Environmental & Engineering Services Department recognize this problem and are developing plans to address the challenges.

### **Components of a Comprehensive and More Progressive Animal Services Program**

As a reminder, City staff are working with the understanding that there is general agreement that the following 10 areas are the foundation of a comprehensive Animal Services Program:

1. Valued Services & Community Compassion
2. Animal Welfare
3. Education & Awareness
4. Monitoring, Analysis & Public Reporting
5. Community Partnerships
6. Pet Identification
7. Community Patrol
8. By-law Enforcement
9. Shelter Facility
10. Fostering & Adoption Facility or Facilities



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- c. John Braam, P. Eng., Director of Water & City Engineer  
Animal Welfare Advisory Committee