

Minutes

Companion Animals Advisory Committee Meeting
Camden Council
Administration Centre
70 Central Avenue, Oran Park

11 October 2022



camden
council

MEETING COMMENCED: 11:37AM**PRESENT**

Councillor Symkowiak (Chair), Ms Colleen Ritchard, Dr Steven Ferguson, Dr Simone Maher, Dr Derek Keeper, Ms Joanne Lawrence, Ms Kerrie Elias, Ms Sharon Richards, Ms Kate Kabrovski, Ms Cherie Davis.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Manager Environment and Regulatory Services, Team Leader Ranger Services, Companion Animals Ranger, Ranger – General Duties and Governance Officer – Panel & Committees.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Clr Symkowiak gave the Acknowledgement of Country.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil.

APOLOGIES AND LEAVES OF ABSENCES

The Committee noted that Clr Campbell is an apology.

BUSINESS ARISING

Nil.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Marion Batchelor from Blue Wren House, Camden Women's Shelter Inc spoke to the Committee about how Camden Council's Animal Care Facility might be able to assist residents who seek assistance from their organisation.

Action Items:

That the Committee, in principle, support the ongoing relationship with Wren House and will support Council Staff as required to facilitate a design that takes their issues into consideration.

Gabrielle Pelletier from Sam Crawford Architects to provide an update on Council's proposed Animal Care Facility.

Action Items:

Nil.

1. CAMDEN ANIMAL SHELTER UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Companion Animals Committee note the contents of the discussion.

Action Items/Discussion:

Manager Environment and Regulatory Services advised that the announcement is about to be made regarding the funding allocation and that he will advise the Committee once the announcement is made.

2. CAT MANAGEMENT PLAN

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Companion Animals Committee note the contents of the discussion.

Action Items/Discussion:

The Team Leader Ranger Services provided an update to the Committee on what Council is doing within this space. This included the desexing program with \$12k allocated, continued surveillance undertaken to assist businesses in Smeaton Grange who have stray cat issues, flyer drops to businesses in relevant areas who also may have stray cat issues, the collar program to assist residents trying to locate an owner, temporary cat carriers purchased to be provided for free for those who require them as well as information being provided on social media.

Companion Animal Ranger advised that the link between desexing and microchipping is working well. The Committee complimented staff on desexing and microchipping program.

The Team Leader Ranger Services advised that the Customer Service scripts have been updated to ensure that persons enquiring about the program for a stray cat are forwarded to the Companion Animal Ranger.

3. OPERATIONAL UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION:

That the information in this report is noted

Action Items:

Nil.

4. AGENDA ITEMS SUBMITTED BY SHARON RICHARDS

RECOMMENDATION:

That the information in this report is noted and any information requested be provided on the meeting date.

Action Items/Discussion:

Statistics have now been provided in numerical form as requested.

The Committee advised that Rossmore is the only vet in the LGA that has emergency after hours. No vet is obligated to be on standby 24/7 for a possible emergency and most vets' voicemails have information about who to contact in case of an emergency.

Clr Symkowiak advised she was of the opinion that the meeting time should stay at 1.5 hours with possible extension if required. The Committee agreed with this approach.

5. GENERAL BUSINESS

RECOMMENDATION:

That the items be discussed in General Business.


Action Items/Discussion:

The Committee noted that they did not feel the graphics were suitable for the targeted age group. The Team Leader Ranger Services asked for possible ideas to be sent through to her.

The Committee raised a point of possible privacy issues with QR code with the dog tags. Manager Environment and Regulatory Services advised that further investigation will be undertaken with regard to access to locations and phone numbers and an update will be provided to the Committee.

MEETING CLOSED AT 1:27pm

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