

OACAC-23-13

Oshawa Animal Care Advisory Committee: Community Resources Working Group

Update on Pet Wellness Days:

Due to the success of our October 2022 Pet Wellness Day, we are planning another Pet Wellness Day in 2023.

As a reminder, this wellness day is part of our community outreach objective – this helps us make progress on three of our work plan initiatives (as shown here):

Goals	Examples of Actions to be Taken
SERVICES FOR VULNERABLE ANIMALS: Improve the availability and exposure of services that support: vulnerable pet owners, unowned domestic animals and feral cats.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine best practices for the provision of low cost or no cost vet care for residents with special emphasize on lower income and vulnerable pet owners. Including: basic vetting, emergency care, vaccines, flea & tick protection, deworming, spay /neuter, microchipping and necessary grooming. Including looking into the OMVA Safe Pet Program.
PROMOTION AND EDUCATION: Improve public perception and knowledge of animal welfare matters and available services within the City of Oshawa.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote and improve exposure of existing programs and resources within the City. • Assist in the development or selection of mailing / handout materials to provide residents with information and access to resources for animal welfare. • Facilitate educational sessions, access to educational materials online and share information on where other resources exist.
FUNDRAISING SUPPORT AND NETWORK BUILDING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide advice, assistance and contacts to assist in fundraising campaigns, grant applications and additional revenue / donation opportunities.

Current activities on this initiative:

- Scheduling our next Pet Wellness Day.
- Evaluate potential venues (especially the John Street Oshawa Senior Citizens Centres location).
- Reaching out to all volunteers from last year plus additional vets and vet techs to find coverage.
- Applying for a PetSmart grant (**pending Council permission**) to cover more expenses and potentially expand offerings (microchips? spay/neuter vouchers? pet food vouchers? flea and tick prevention? De-worming? Emergency grooming).
- Look into additional ways to advertise for both donations of time / products to be given away and for additional persons needing help.
- Integrating some educational matter into the bags / gifts we hand out (ie. updating our “food available here” cards and including them in the hand outs; pet-friendly warming center info; feral cat brochure; pet care info; maybe a simplified summary of the RPO; community contacts; other helpful info).

OACAC-23-13

- Source other hand-outs (ie. collars, harnesses and leashes to help users to keep their animals safe; treats & toys; coupons, etc...)

Future considerations:

- Working with local vet clinics on an ongoing basis to help pets of low / no income residents.
- For future years consider 2 per year (1 more geared towards seniors; 1 more geared towards the homeless community).

Recommendation:

That the Community Resources Working Group recommend to the Oshawa Animal Care Advisory Committee (O.A.C.A.C.):

That the O.A.C.A.C. apply for third party funding such as a Grant or Sponsorship from one or two third-party organizations that Oshawa Animal Services currently has a pre-existing relationships with (i.e. PetSmart Grant Program or Pet Valu Sponsorship) up to \$10,000 to cover the cost of medications and other supplies for the Pet Wellness day.