



Oshawa® Oshawa Animal Care Advisory Committee

Minutes

September 23, 2025, 6:30 p.m.
Committee Room

Present: Donna Benson, Chair
Melinda Diebel, Barn Cat Co-op
Dianne Fil, Spay, Neuter Initiatives
MJ Galaski, Animal Rescue Krew
Kimberley Mack, Golden Rescue
Kelli Polsinelli, Wild Earth Refuge
Councillor Nicholson

Absent: Kassie Dickson
Kim Marchbank, Team Chelsea

Also Present: P. Aguilera, Council-Committee Coordinator
K. Christopher, Council-Committee Coordinator
J. Kelloway, Council Committee Coordinator
S. Prodenzino, Council-Committee Coordinator
J. Bishop, Director, Community and Environmental Services
M. Meyer, Supervisor, Animal Services

Public Meeting

Donna Benson, Chair called the meeting to order and advised that all members were participating from the Committee Meeting Room except Kelli Polsinelli who was participating electronically.

Land Acknowledgment

The City of Oshawa is situated on lands within the traditional and treaty territory of the Michi Saagiig and Chippewa Anishinaabeg and the signatories of the Williams Treaties, which include the Mississaugas of Scugog Island, Curve Lake, Hiawatha and Alderville First Nations, and the Chippewas of Georgina Island, Rama and Beausoleil First Nations. We are grateful for the Anishinaabeg who have cared for the land and waters within this territory since time immemorial.

We recognize that Oshawa is steeped in rich Indigenous history and is now present day home to many First Nations, Inuit and Métis people. We express gratitude for this diverse group of Indigenous Peoples who continue to care for the land and shape and strengthen our community.

As a municipality, we are committed to understanding the truth of our shared history, acknowledging our role in addressing the negative impacts that colonization continues to have on Indigenous Peoples, developing reciprocal relationships, and taking meaningful action toward reconciliation.

We are all Treaty people.

Additional Items

Moved by Kelli Polsinelli

That the delegation from Martin Field concerning Report OACAC-25-10 regarding regulating the commercial sale of animals in pet shops, namely small animals (pocket pets) including reptiles and birds be added to the agenda of the Oshawa Animal Care Advisory Committee meeting of September 23, 2025.

Carried

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

None

Presentations

None

Delegations

Moved by Councillor Nicholson

That the delegation of Martin Field be heard.

Carried

Martin Field - OACAC-25-10

Martin Field addressed the Oshawa Animal Care Advisory Committee regarding regulating the commercial sale of animals in pet shops, namely small animals (pocket pets) including reptiles and birds be added to the agenda of the Oshawa Animal Care Advisory Committee meeting of September 23, 2025

Referrals from Council and Committees

None

Correspondence

None

Reports

OACAC-25-08- Proposed 2026 Oshawa Animal Care Advisory Committee Work Plan & Budget

Moved by Melinda Diebel

That Report OACAC-25-08, dated September 19, 2025, being the proposed 2026 Oshawa Animal Care Advisory Committee Work Plan & Budget be received for information.

Carried

OACAC-25-09 -Community Resources Working Group Report on Pet Wellness Days

Moved by MJ Galaski

That Report OACAC-25-09, dated September 18, 2025 being the Community Resources Working Group Report on Pet Wellness Days be received for information.

Carried

OACAC-25-10 - Regulatory and By-Law Working Group Report

Moved by Kimberley Mack

That Report OACAC-25-10, dated September 18, 2025, being the Regulatory and Bylaw Working Group Report be received for information.

Carried

Items Introduced by Members

OACAC-25-11 - Pre-approve Budget for Brochure

Moved by Melinda Diebel

That a brochure be created on behalf of the Oshawa Animal Care Advisory Committee stating reasons why wild animals should not be kept as pets and that \$600 from the OACAC budget be dedicated to the publication of the brochure once it has been approved.

Carried

Adjournment

Moved by MJ Galaski

That the meeting adjourn at 7:30 p.m.