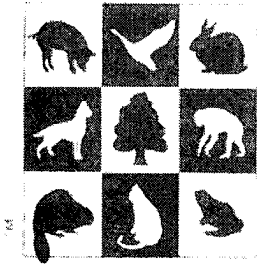


# BU19.1.243



**Animal Alliance  
of Canada**



**Animal Alliance  
Environment Voters  
Party of Canada**

December 7, 2011

Chairperson and Members,  
Budget Committee,  
Toronto City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON  
M5H 2N2

Dear Councillor Del Grande and Members of the Budget  
Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee about  
Toronto Animal Services.

We support all 11 recommendations made by the Auditor General  
in his October 5, 2011 report. All are designed to reduce the  
population of unwanted and abandoned pets through the feral  
cat and shelter animal sterilization programme, through  
licensing so lost pets can be returned to their families as quickly  
as possible, and through sheltering and adoption for the animals  
who cannot be returned home.

The recommendations are good for the animals because they are  
aimed at reducing the euthanasia rate, they are good for the  
Toronto Animal Services because fewer animals will have to be  
sheltered and good for the City because of cost savings and  
revenue generation.

The Management's Response to the Auditor General's Review  
shows that the Executive Director of Municipal Licensing and  
Standards agrees with the recommendations and that the  
Manager of Toronto Animal Services has already implemented  
recommendations #8, #9 and #10 and is in the process of  
implementing recommendations #6, #7 and #11.

However, we are here today to raise concerns about the feasibility  
of staff to implement the remaining recommendations under the  
2012 proposed staff reductions. In addition, no provisions have  
been made for the impact of a likely 2012 strike/lockout on the  
deliverability of the Action Plan as laid out in the management's  
response document.

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Animal Alliance/Environment Voters is very supportive of Toronto Animal Services. We assist wherever possible, taking animals who are difficult to adopt and finding them homes. In any given year we take between 100 to 150 TAS animals into our rescue and adoption programme.

Currently, we have four TAS cats in our office who tested positive for feline AIDS and a three month old beagle puppy recovering from parvovirus.

We think the TAS staff have demonstrated a dedication and commitment to the animals who come into their care. We think TAS programmes are exemplary and should be the standard for every shelter. We think the TAS staff continually strive for programme improvement and cost efficiencies.

It is therefore vitally important to us that everything possible be done to protect the programmes and to reduce the number of animals being admitted and euthanized at TAS shelters.

We are willing to work with TAS to reduce euthanasia, to help with the feral cat sterilization programme and to take animals as requested by TAS staff.

Unfortunately, over the last few years TAS staffing has declined by approximately 10 positions or more. At the same time as the number of animals coming into the shelters has increased. The 2012 reduction in staff will very likely result in increased euthanasia.

So today, we want to state categorically to this committee and to council that it is completely unacceptable to kill animals as a way to save money.

We urge you to back away from the staff reduction. In order to implement the Auditor's recommendations, the City needs to build good will with the animal protection community, with the owners of pet stores and pet supply stores and with the City's veterinarians, in order to implement recommendation #1 to #4 and to realize the related revenue benefits.

Building good will is hard to do when euthanasia continues to rise. Euthanasia cannot be reduced without adequate staff.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Liz White', with a stylized, cursive script.

Liz White, Animal Alliance/Environment Voters