



**Animal Alliance
of Canada**



**Animal Alliance
Environment Voters
Party of Canada**



June 15, 2015.

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

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

**Item GM5.12: Below-Market Rent Lease Agreement
with Urban Cats Relief Inc. at 705 Progress Avenue**

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee regarding the Below-Market Rent Lease Agreement with Urban Cats Relief Inc. at 705 Progress Avenue.

Recommendations:

We urge the Committee to adopt the five staff recommendations in Report GM5.12.

Background:

In the spring of 2010, Toronto Animal Services announced the opening of a new spay/neuter clinic, providing free sterilization services for feral cats on specific days each month.

Later in 2010, Toronto Humane Society, also began offering free spay neuter clinics for feral cats.

Concurrently, the Toronto Feral Cat Coalition was formed to:

- Help reduce feral cat over-population in Toronto via TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return) and accessible spay/neuter clinics in a coordinated manner.
- Educate and build awareness amongst cat owners and caregivers about the breadth of resources available for TNR and colony management in Toronto.
- Advocate with politicians and support the ongoing welfare of Toronto's colonies.

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The Coalition identified recovery space as a significant impediment to the feral cat sterilization process. Neither Toronto Animal Services nor the Toronto Humane Society offered recovery space.

Colony caretakers and other volunteers were recovering the cats and because of limited space and resources, the number of cats who could be sterilized at any one time was reduced.

In 2012, the City allocated Unit 15 at 705 Progress Avenue, near Toronto Animal Services east shelter and in October the Recovery Centre opened. It has provided much needed space to recover feral cats who have undergone sterilization and who need to recover before being returned to their colonies.

In 2013, Urban Cat Relief took over the operation of the Recovery Centre and has managed it on a volunteer basis ever since. The Centre has provided space for approximately 6,000 cats to recover from sterilization surgery prior to their release.

The space is an integral part of the City's programme to humanely reduce the number of abandoned, lost and feral cats in Toronto.

The Toronto Feral Cat Coalition, of which Toronto Animal Services is a partner, has made great strides in sterilizing thousands of street cats and reducing the number of entering the City's shelters.

We strongly urge you to support staff recommendations and permit the Recovery Centre to continue operations through Urban Cat Relief and in partnership with Toronto Animal Services.

Sincerely,



Liz White,
Director/Leader
Animal Alliance/Environment Voters



Barry Kent MacKay
Canadian Representative
Born Free USA