



**ANIMAL
ALLIANCE**
OF CANADA

*Animal
Protection
Through
Education &
Advocacy*



TO: Mayor Tory and Members of Council

**FROM: Liz White, Director
Animal Alliance of Canada**

**Lia Laskaris, Treasurer
Animal Protection Party of Canada**

**SUBJECT: Submission: Comments on the Toronto Animal Services portion of
Municipal Licensing and Standards 2018 Budget**

DATE: February 6, 2018

Dear Mayor Tory and Members of Council,

We are writing on behalf of our supporters and the broader animal protection community in Toronto. We recommend that Council keep the Toronto Animal Services ("TAS") budget at the level as set out on page 19 of the Municipal Licensing and Standards 2018 Operating Budget, which states, "The Animal Care, Control & Sheltering service's 2018 Preliminary Operating Budget of \$10.591 million gross and \$7.542 million net or 4.5% above the 2017 Approved Net Budget."

We recognize that there are budget pressures and these pressures need to be offset. However, we would also point out that on the animal sheltering side, TAS operates their shelters as open admission which means TAS accepts any and all animals brought to the shelters. In addition, TAS takes animals from hoarding situations and maintains animals on a long term basis where the animals are admitted under protective custody. So there are significant pressures within TAS to care for large numbers of animals with ever declining resources and fewer staff.

Past cuts have resulted in the closure of the only TAS shelter in the old City of Toronto due to insufficient staff and this has resulted in a significant reduction in services to city centre residents. Those living in the old City of Toronto have no local shelter and must travel greater distances, including on public transit, to retrieve their pets.

Despite facing repeated cuts over that last decade, Toronto Animal Services has become a world renowned leader in the municipal animal service sector. Here are some of the programmes:

- **Feral Cat Coalition:** As part of the Toronto Feral Cat Coalition, TAS and community partners have sterilized thousands of feral cats significantly impacting the feral cat population. The programme has resulted in a significant decrease in the number of feral cats euthanized at TAS shelters. The programme has been so successful, that communities throughout North America look to Toronto

221 Broadview Ave.
Suite 101, Toronto
Ontario, Canada
M4M 2G3

Phone
416.462.9541
Fax
416.462.9647
E-mail

Contact@AnimalAlliance.ca
Website
www.AnimalAlliance.ca



Animals Services and the Coalition for guidance in establishing similar programmes.

- **SNYP Truck - Spay/Neuter of stray cats and cats in low income communities:** In a co-funded project with Pet Smart, TAS acquired the SNYP truck (“**Spay/Neuter Your Pet**”) which is a mobile veterinary spay/neuter facility. The programme provides access to spay/neuter veterinary services in numerous low income communities throughout Toronto.
- **CHIP Truck:** To ensure better identification of pets through microchips, TAS provides low cost microchipping services. The importance of this service is that the better the animals are identified, the easier they are to return home if they become lost and end up at one of the TAS shelters.
- **Community partners:** TAS has developed a strong relationship with community animal protection and rescue groups that take TAS animals who are difficult to adopt and find them homes. In 2014, 1323 cats were transferred to rescue groups and 1253 cats in 2015 (the most recent available statistics).

Any further cuts to the TAS budget puts many of the exceptional programmes now in operation at risk.

To meet some of the wonderful animals seeking their families or waiting for adoption, visit www.facebook.com/torontoanimalservices/photos

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Liz White



Lia Laskaris

SNYP and CHIP Trucks



Faces of Success
Animals adopted from Toronto Animal Service

