

**From:** [Feral Cat Recovery Centre](#)  
**To:** [Budget Committee](#); [Mayor Tory](#)  
**Subject:** Submission: Comments on the Toronto Animal Services portion of Municipal Licensing and Standards 2018 Budget  
**Date:** Monday, February 5, 2018 9:48:28 PM

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Dear Mayor Tory and Members of The Toronto City Council,

While I do understand that you have already received similar input from many other individuals and organizations, I am writing to add my voice in the request that Toronto City Council keep the Toronto Animal Services budget at the level as set out on page 19 of the Municipal Licensing and Standards 2018 Operating Budget.

While I do realize that there are budget pressures and these pressures need to be offset, I would also point out that on the animal sheltering side, Toronto Animal Services operates its shelters as open admission, meaning that it accepts any and all animals brought in to the shelters. In addition, animals are taken in from hoarding situations and TAS maintains animals on a long term basis where the animals are admitted under protective custody. As a result, there are significant pressures within the department 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 residents living in the centre of the city. 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.

Yet, 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 programs that they maintain with the funding supplied:

- **Feral Cat Coalition:** As one of the members of Toronto Feral Cat Coalition, TAS joins its community partners to offer sterilization services that have benefited thousands of feral cats significantly impacting the feral cat population. This program has resulted in a significant decrease in the number of feral cats euthanized at TAS shelters. This program has been so successful, that communities throughout North America look to Toronto Animals Services and the Coalition for guidance in establishing similar programs.
- **SNYP Truck** - In a co-funded project with PetSmart, TAS acquired the SNYP truck which is a mobile veterinary spay/neuter facility. The program 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. These organizations are able to take in many of the TAS animals who are difficult to adopt and find them homes. In 2014, 1323 cats were transferred to rescue groups and 1253 cats were transferred in 2015 (the most recent available statistics).

Any further cuts to the Toronto Animal Services budget could put many of these and other exceptional programs now in operation at risk.

I thank you for your consideration.

Brad Wall

Toronto Cat Rescue Volunteer and Manager of the Feral Cat Recovery Centre

**Toronto Feral Cat Recovery Centre**

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