From: L.Tucker  
Sent: November 14, 2011 11:53 AM  
To: Robicheau, Vanessa  
Subject: Revision of Hamilton Animal Control Bylaws, November 15, 2011 Public Meeting  

Dear Mayor Bob Bratina and Ward Councillors Brian McHattie, Jason Farr, Bernie Morelli, Sam Merulla, Chad Collins, Tom Jackson, Scott Duvall, Terry Whitehead, Brad Clark, Maria Pearson, Brenda Johnson, Lloyd Ferguson, Russ Powers, Robert Pasuta, and Judi Partridge:

I read with interest the proposed amendments to Hamilton Animal Control’s Bylaws including the "Comments from Public Consultation and Action" section in which it is stated that "Animal Services is working towards “No Kill” of healthy animals within the resources available." I previously wrote to you on July 12, 2011 and provided you with a number of resources detailing the essential steps for a shelter/community to implement to achieve a "No Kill" goal.

Today I would like to leave you with the following comments:

1) Hamilton Animal Control is losing significant annual revenue by not:
   a) encouraging licensing of cats (Calgary built its No Cost Spay/Neuter facility strictly with cat licensing revenues)  
   b) facilitating public adoptions either on or off site (those revenues are going to rescue groups)  
   c) allowing volunteers to give thousands of hours a year of unpaid support to the shelter

2) Concerns with respect to animal control incurring liability by allowing members of the public into the shelter and volunteers into the shelter are unfounded and could easily be dealt with by requiring volunteers, foster parents, and adopters to sign waivers of liability, by training volunteers, and by having staff escort other members of the public while in the shelter (this is what Calgary does).

3) Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) is AN ESSENTIAL COMPONENT of any community reaching the "No Kill" goal. If animal control is not prepared/able to implement TNR then it should NOT be picking up healthy cats roaming in its neighbourhoods. I am also not aware of any provisions in the Animals For Research Act that would prevent animal control from registering and cataloging cat colonies and their caregivers/feeders to prevent those animals from being euthanized at the shelter. Calgary Animal Services has a partnership with a rescue organization to take all of its feral cats.

4) Hamilton should make it worth it's citizens' time and money to license their pets by borrowing Calgary's successful programs of:
   a) "1 Heart My Pet" rewards program which consists of over 60 businesses in the Calgary community that give discounts to citizens who license their pets.  
   b) Offering a 6 month free amnesty period to encourage people to start licensing their pets and then sending automated renewals thereafter.  
   c) Offering a 6 month free license to anyone who adopts from animal control.

5) Calgary Animal Services has made it one of their goals to "return to owner" as many animals as possible. They have demonstrated that "return to owner" rates parallel licensing rates. In 2010 Calgary licensed 55% of its cats and "returned to owner" 55% of the cats picked up. They licensed 90% of the dogs and "returned to owner" 87% (30% driven right home and didn't even enter the shelter). Hamilton should strive to do the same.

Finally, I would like to express my appreciation for the proposal that pet limits be removed from the by-laws and that animals be immunized and receive necessary lifesaving veterinary care during the redemption period.

Thank you very much for your time.

Regards,  
Leanne Tucker