I understand there will be a meeting regarding the by-laws of the Hamilton Animal Control on Tuesday; I cannot attend, therefore I am sending this email with my thoughts and feelings about the situation at the HAC.

I foster cats/kittens for a local rescue organization. We have taken out quite a few from HAC, all which have had Upper Respiratory Infection and some quite severely ill.

While I am aware the URI is typical within a crowded facility, I am hoping that the HAC can quarantine new arrivals before placing them in with the other animals in the shelter.

As for the number of pets owned, I believe it could be more than 2 however, I feel that owners of cats should also have to have their pets licensed or microchipped and this SHOULD be MANDATORY.

The number of cats euthanized on a weekly basis is appauling. I am under the assumption that a vet comes into the shelter twice per week to put to sleep unwanted animals and is paid per animal. I feel that the 72 hour holding time in which someone has to find their pet at the shelter is unfair. Recently I was on a site in which 2 different people lost their cats. I suggested to them the HAC, and they (living in Hamilton) had no idea this place existed...they were reunited with their cats...more information regarding lost pets and the HAC is much needed. More cats would have a chance of returning home if they knew where they were to look.

I also feel that in this day and age we should be able to look and facilitate a NO KILL policy. Bill Bruce in Calgary has done so, and it is necessary to do so here. We will always have some people who think animals are disposable, but I feel that those working in such organizations with the animals should/need to take a better look at stopping the unnecessary killing of these animals yearly. I can't believe the numbers and there is no need for this. People's pets are being euthanized because 1. they don't know where to go/look 2. there is a 72 hour window in which they have to get their pet out of HAC!!!! Not fair.

I think it time for Hamilton to set an example for other Animal Control agencies in working towards a NO KILL shelter. There are ways of accomplishing this...reading "Redemption" by Winograd is a start.

I am hoping that this letter opens some eyes and hearts. I surely would think that we can move forward instead of backwards when it comes to the killing of these animals. Hamilton City Council needs to listen to the people, and make changes.

Sincerely,

J. Collins

cc: Animal Alliance