

THS Board Meetings June-August 2011 Summary

In the summer of 2011 the Board of Directors of the Toronto Humane Society discussed a number of items, most notably:

Directors & Officers

The Board elected the following Officers for 2011-12:

- President: Marcie Laking
- Vice President: Wendy Strickland
- Second Vice President: Peter Newell
- Chair: Linda MacKinnon
- Secretary: Lisa Gibbens
- Treasurer: Sydney Nezon (non-voting)

As Sydney Nezon does not wish to serve a full term, the Board will look for a new Treasurer. The Board also reluctantly agreed to accept Michael Downey's resignation with regret, as his experience, wisdom and humour was key in moving the THS forward and will be missed.

CEO Search

After conducting a thorough, nationwide search and interviewing several candidates, the CEO search committee made a presentation to the Board. After a lengthy discussion with Dr. Jacques Messier, the top candidate, the Board unanimously agreed he was an excellent choice for the Chief Executive Officer of the THS and offered him the position, starting September 1, 2011.

Dr. Messier comes to the THS from his role as the Director of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital at the University of Saskatchewan where he led a team that cared for 50,000 animals every year. Skilled at building relationships with community organizations, Dr. Messier also brings key business and fundraising skills to the THS. A former CEO of Novopharm, he recently raised more than \$3 million for the University of Saskatchewan.

Animal Care

In addition to helping reduce animal homelessness, the Board agreed that caring for special needs animals is an important part of THS' role, passing a motion that: The Toronto Humane Society recognizes as one of its essential purposes the care of all animals, including a special interest in assisting senior and special needs animals who might not have a chance elsewhere.

Discussions continued about how to accept strays, including the merits and challenges of working with OSPCA and TAS. The CEO was asked to open discussions with both the OSPCA and TAS about accepting strays and report back to the Board on his findings. Staff were also asked to report on what the THS would need to do before it could safely accept and care for injured and orphaned wildlife.

Advocacy

The Board supported a motion at Toronto City Council to ban the sale of cats and dogs in pet stores. THS also commended PJ's Pets on their decision to stop selling dogs in their stores, instead promoting adoptable animals from rescue groups.

The Board strongly opposed the City of Toronto's proposed cuts to Toronto Animal Services. After unanimously passing a motion opposing the privatization of TAS, THS made a deputation to the Licensing and Standards Committee, met with a member of the Executive Committee and sent a letter to the Mayor.

After the expose of the conditions in Montreal's privately run shelters, THS advocated that the City of Toronto should continue to operate Toronto Animal Services and consider adopting the Calgary model. In Calgary, 88% of all stray dogs and more than half of all lost cats are reunited with their families. Calgary's euthanasia rate for cats is 18% - a stark contrast to Canada's average of 74%.

** This is a summary of some of the key items discussed at recent THS Board meetings. Members are welcome to view the official minutes by contacting the Executive Offices at the Toronto Humane Society.*