

THS Board Meeting (#3) Minutes

Tuesday, October 28, 2025, 6:00 pm
By Teleconference

Present: Julie Barac, Alexandra Bratton, Damian Creber, Liz Everett, Rodney Gill, Vivien Glencross, Adrienne Macdonald, Gary Milakovic, Alexandre Rochtchine, Josh Shanahan, Marcie Somers, Nabila Tisha, Roxanne Yanofsky

Staff: Phil Nichols, CEO; Abu Nana, Director of Finance; Claudette Turner, Recording Secretary

Regrets: Emily Cornelius

Adrienne Macdonald called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

1. Regular Business

1.1 THAT the Agenda be approved as amended.

MOVED: Liz Everett Seconded: Alexandra Bratton ... **Carried.**

1.2 THAT the Minutes of the September 30, 2025 Board meeting be approved.

MOVED: Liz Everett Seconded: Gary Milakovic ... **Carried.**

The Minutes of the September 17, 2025 Board meeting will be brought to the Board for approval at the next meeting.

1.3 THAT the new memberships and all timely renewals be approved

MOVED: Roxanne Yanofsky Seconded: Alexandra Bratton ... **Carried.**

Roxanne Yanofsky kindly volunteered to continue to call and welcome the new members.

2. Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

3. Financial Update

Monthly Financial Statements – Abu Nana reviewed the monthly financial statements for September. He noted that September revenues were lagging but should increase in the coming weeks. The Board discussed the impact of the current rotating postal strike on fundraising mailings. The cash position is favourable.

2026 Budget – Work on the 2026 Budget is underway and a draft is expected to be available for the November Board meeting.

Interim Audit – The interim audit has begun and is scheduled to be completed next week.

4. CEO Update

Phil Nichols reported on the satellite clinic construction. A soft opening in early January is anticipated.

Phil reported on a very successful donor engagement event that resulted in 25-30 new relationships. The Board expressed its appreciation to all those involved in the event.

5. Proposed Position Statements

Adrienne introduced three proposed position statements for Board approval.

Board Member Code of Conduct – Julie Barac outlined the principles and standards that all Board members must uphold, described their key responsibilities and duties, conduct and accountability. After discussion, the following motion was proposed:

5.1 THAT the Board of Directors Code of Conduct be approved.

MOVED: Julie Barac Seconded: Alexandre Rochtchine ... Carried.

The Board thanked Julie, Phil, and all who worked on the Board Member Code of Conduct.

Puppy and Kitten Mills – Liz Everett reviewed the proposed position statement on puppy and kitten mills. The statement endorses the responsible adoption of companion animals from local humane societies, established shelters, and rescue organizations with demonstrable transparency and acceptable standards of care in handling animals. Toronto Humane Society opposes the high-volume breeding of dogs and cats that are primarily profit-driven businesses

that raise animals in substandard conditions, prioritizing profit over best practices. The position statement has been endorsed by the Animal Welfare Committee.

5.2 THAT the position statement on Puppy Mills and Kitten Mills be approved.

MOVED: Liz Everett Seconded: Roxanne Yanofsky ... **Carried.**

The Board thanked the members of the Animal Welfare Committee for their work on this position statement.

Banning Unnecessary Veterinary Procedures – Liz Everett reviewed the proposed position statement on unnecessary veterinary procedures, such as tail and ear cropping and devocalization, and declawing (cats), which can be harmful to the animal and ethically challenging. The Society is encouraging the Government of Ontario to act to ban these types of procedures. The Animal Welfare Committee has endorsed this position statement.

5.3 THAT the position statement on Banning Unnecessary Veterinary Procedures be approved.

MOVED: Liz Everett Seconded: Nabila Tisha ... **Carried.**

The Board expressed its appreciation to the Animal Welfare Committee and all who worked on this position statement.

6. Committee Reports

Animal Welfare – Liz Everett advised that Committee matters were discussed earlier in the meeting.

Audit & Finance – Damian Creber advised that Committee matters were discussed earlier in the meeting.

Development – Nabila Tisha reported that revenues from the Humane Open golf tournament were well over budget and that the event generated significant donor engagement. She outlined the upcoming fundraising campaigns and asked the Board to share information about them. The Board discussed ways to reduce donation processing costs. Nabila noted that December 2nd is Giving Tuesday and encouraged Board members to participate and spread the word.

Facilities – Josh Shanahan noted that Committee matters were discussed earlier in the meeting.

Governance – Adrienne advised that a Governance manual is being developed. It will dovetail with Imagine Canada. She will be discussing further with Phil. Adrienne asked that the Board consider an in-person Board meeting in January. Rodney Gill kindly volunteered to look into the availability of a meeting room at his firm.

7. Other Business

There was no other business.

8. Next Meeting

Tuesday, November 25, 2025, 6:00 pm

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:59 pm.