

Dublin City Council

Oversight Committee on Animal Welfare

Meeting via Hybrid Teleconferencing (Zoom) and Richard O'Carroll Room City Hall

Thursday 7th July 2022, 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Minutes

Members In Attendance:

Cllr. Deirdre Heney, Chair (DH)
Lord Mayor Caroline Conroy (CC)
Cllr. Donna Cooney (DC)
Garda Gillian Duffy (GD)
Martina Kenny (MK) (My Lovely Horse)
Garda Áine McQuillan (AMC)
Cllr. Cieran Perry (CP)

Animal Welfare Unit - Officials:

Ursula Donnellan, Senior Executive Officer (UD)
Pat Teehan, Administrative Officer (PT)
David Gibbons, A/Staff Officer (DG)
Minute Taker: Gareth Matthews, Staff Officer (GM)

Apologies

Catherine Lawlor (CL) (Department of Agriculture)
Coilín O'Reilly (Dublin City Council)
Frank D'Arcy (Dublin City Council)
Cllr. Janice Boylan

		Discussion	Actions
1.	Minutes of last meeting	Chairperson welcomed Ursula Donnellan, Senior Executive Officer to the committee.	Minutes agreed Cllr Perry.
2.	Manager's Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ David Gibbons gave update on the establishments used by the Animal Welfare Unit to rehome dogs.➤ The maximum capacity for current dog shelter confirmed. Governance Issue raised re lack of service agreement with Hollygrove. Suggested 6 month contract to be negotiated with Hollygrove pending alternative arrangements.➤ Dog Wardens completed full training. CPD training to be continued.	(GM) A brief overview of the external organisations that Animal Welfare Unit are currently working with to be circulated to committee members.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Times of Out of Hours number confirmed including all night messaging service. 	
3.	Update on workings of Animal Welfare Unit - positives/negatives in relation to animals (seized and surrendered)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Large seized/surrendered dogs proving difficult to rehome ➤ Expected increase in horse ownership throughout summer months 	(DG) establish relationship with charity organisations capable of caring for large breed of dogs and reduce length of stay in shelter. Animal Welfare officers to increase compliance checks and assist in seizures of horses.
4.	Update on temporary dog shelter facility and progress report on replacement facility closer to the city	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ (U.D) DCC assisting applicant with DCC matters relating to Planning Permission granted by Fingal County Council Reg. Ref. FW21A/0138 for animal shelter at Meakstown. 	(UD) Potential for land to be used as possible location for municipal dog shelter to be raised with DCC Property Management.
5.	Progress update on staff complement of the Unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Animal Welfare Unit optimum structure defined and request for establishment of new posts has been formally submitted to DCC HR Department ➤ Subject to approval of posts process will progress to recruitment. 	(UD) to continue to liaise with DCC HR Department to prioritise recruitment of AWU posts.
6.	Progress update on Meakstown Equine Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Compliance check took place last week and positive response to previous compliance checks. 	Revisit to centre planned
7.	A.O.B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Planned compliance check on horse drawn carriages rescheduled. ➤ Animal Welfare to continue working relationship with An Garda Síochana for compliance checks. ➤ New Horse reclaim form created and in use. ➤ Emerging issue re super XL and XXL Bullys and artificial insemination flagged. 	Horse reclaim form to be circulated to all Garda Stations within DCC together with 'quick guide' on Control of Horses legislation for info. of Garda Stations.
		Next meeting date to be confirmed.	Wed 7th September 2022 Wed 2nd November 2022 Wed 21st December 2022