

Minutes

GHI Companion Animal Committee

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

7:30 p.m.

Online Training

Attendees: Kris White, Midge Cruz, Ellen Weiss, Debbie Cooley, Eldo Brown, Liz Toby, Laura Kressler, Dr. Meaghan Ropski

Excused Absences: Anne Marcus

The CAC Cat Project Training occurred online on Tuesday, October 26, 2021 and was recorded. The trainer, Dr. Ropski provided a 90-minute training that covered a wide range of topics to help CAC members gain a better understanding of cats. These included cat behavior and stress signals, inexpensive and space-saving enrichment tools to keep indoor cats happy, the behaviors that tend to result in indoor cats being placed outdoors and how to prevent/manage them, and how to transition outdoor cats indoors. Dr. Ropski also discussed the importance of spaying/neutering all cats and illustrated how quickly cat populations can grow from a single outdoor cat who is not spayed.

The section of the training about cat behavior and stress signals was interactive. This approach resulted in enthusiastic participation by committee members. After the presentation, Dr. Ropski took CAC members' questions. A lively and very informative question and answer session continued for almost an additional hour.

The CAC's reason for wanting this training was to provide for better GHI member education about cats. The hope is that the training will result in committee members being able to better assist GHI members in preventing cats from becoming outdoor cats, as well as assisting and supporting members who want to transition their outdoor cats indoors. The goal is that these efforts will result in fewer GHI neighbor complaints about outdoor cats. The CAC also learned about up-to-date resources that the CAC can make available to GHI members during community education events.

Committee feedback about the training was very positive. Dr. Ropski is an effective speaker and trainer which added to the overall success of the training.

As a result of this experience, we have requested budget for a member-centric online workshop about cats addressing the common behaviors that members experience that often lead to outdoor cats. The focus would be on new cat parents and those considering adding a cat to their families. It would provide those members who attend with the opportunity to ask questions. Our hope is that the new member portal will be available and capable of making the recording of such a training available to members going forward as well.

Kris White, Chair

Distribution:

Committee Members: Kris White, Debbie Cooley, Midge Cruz, Laura Kressler, Eldo Brown, Irv Wartell, Ellen Weiss, Ann Markus, Elizabeth Jones, Elizabeth Tobey, Board of Directors, Director of Member Services, General Manager, and Monica Johnson.