

COMPANION ANIMAL COMMITTEE

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GHI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

July 2020-December 2021

Please Note: The CAC did not meet in December because of the holidays. We continue to hold our monthly meetings using Zoom. To date all community activities have been canceled. In addition, we decided not to hold Meet and Greets during the period this report covers.

ACTIVITIES

Guide for GHI Members with Companion Animals

The CAC finished the **Guide for GHI Members with Companion Animals**. It was approved by the GHI Board of Directors, and uploaded to our web page. We will publicize the Guide by providing a short description of the Guide, with a link to it, in e-News. We made sure that appropriate GHI staff have digital copies of the Guide.

Pamphlet for New Members

As a result of Covid, work on this pamphlet came to a halt. Our goal is to finish this before the end of 2021. This pamphlet for new members highlights pet etiquette, some key difference between local and county ordinances and GHI rules. The pamphlet also provides an introduction to the charter and mission of the CAC. It will also contain a link to the **Guide for GHI Members with Companion Animals**. Once completed this pamphlet will be provided to select GHI staff for their review. After we receive and discuss their comments and make any revisions, the pamphlet will be presented to the Board of Directors for approval.

Animal Complaints

During the period of this report, animal complaints involved excessive barking, neighbor conflict that involved a reactive dog, and pet waste not being cleaned up in members' yards.

GOALS FOR 2021

As a result of Covid-19, we anticipate that our in-person activities and events will be canceled. Covid also impacts our goals for 2021. If things change in the coming months, we will revisit our 2021 goals.

1. Complete pamphlet about Pets in GHI for the Pre-Purchase Orientation. This pamphlet will highlight our Guide on the ghi.coop web site, will explain what is unique about having pets in GHI, and will talk about dog and cat etiquette. It will also link to the **Guide for GHI Members with Companion Animals**.
2. Complete article on Covid and separation anxiety in dogs.
3. Complete document about winter care of pets.

4. Complete document on special items available online for DINOS, deaf, and blind dogs. This information show members items such as collars, vests and leashes that can alert other members that their dog needs space or is unable to hear or see. It will also provide links to resources that can assist members living with these dogs. The CAC is aware of members who have dogs that fit into all these categories.
5. Work with an Animal Behaviorist on the issue of cats roaming at large in GHI. This will include at least one webinar educating committee members about this topic, discussion of problems that often result in cats becoming outdoor cats, solutions to common behavior problems to prevent cats from becoming outdoor cats, other community-based educational programs (if any) to address this issue, and online resources that members will be able to access.
6. Use e-News alerts to announce key CAC events and topics.
7. Draft a public-facing page for the GHI.Coop CAC webpage to have ready when the private member portal is operational.

Ongoing Goals

8. Community Education Campaign
 - Transitioning cats indoors.
 - Management techniques to stop dogs from fence running and lunging at fences.
 - Management techniques for excessive barking.
 - Avoiding human-wildlife conflicts.
 - Importance of cleaning up after pets.
9. Educate all members about dogs in need of space (DINOS) to provide a member with the tools to inform others that their dog is a dog in need of space and should not be approached without permission. Also aids in bite prevention.
10. Hold Meet and Greet Events around GHI (once it is safe to do so).
11. Update and clean up our ghi.coop web page.
12. Continue working with Member Services, and contributing to GHI's e-News, and the committee web page.
13. Transition content to the new member portal once it is operational.
14. Continue to partner with the Greenbelt Community Animal Response Team (GCART).