



Municipality of Anchorage
Animal Control Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
May 26, 2016



1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m. by Ms. Hamer. A quorum was present.

Members Present: Kari Campbell; Kayla Epstein; Allegra Hamer, Chair; Jay Jackson; Christine Roalofs, DMD, Vice Chair; Sandy Traini

Members Absent: James Hagee, DVM; Jennifer Spencer

Staff Present: Michael Tierney, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS); DeeAnn Fetko, DHHS; Dr. Myra Wilson, DVM, Animal Licensing and Placement Services (ALPS), Laura Atwood, ALPS

Ms. Fetko introduced Mr. Tierney as the new Administration Manager at the Department of Health and Human Services. Mr. Tierney will be administering the Animal Care and Control Services contract and staffing the Animal Control Advisory Board.

2. **Minutes from the April 28, 2016 Meeting:** Motion to approve the minutes by Ms. Traini and seconded by Ms. Campbell. The minutes were approved as written.

3. **Requested Presentations:** None.

4. **Persons to be Heard:**

a. Terranova Tasker - In April, Ms. Tasker visited Coshok's Canine Castle and Alaskan Animal Rescue Friends (AARF). She noted the care of the animals and facility seemed questionable and requested an update on what is going on with the facility and asked what the options are for addressing problems.

5. **Standing Reports:**

Anchorage Animal Care and Control (AACC) Monthly Report and Public Outreach
– Dr. Wilson reported on April activities. The shelter received 143 cats in April 2016 compared to 141 in 2015. AACC received 167 dogs compared to 206 in 2015. Cats claimed were 27%. This is really good compared to national averages. AACC received a few feral cats. The shelter is not seeing an increase in feral animals. Dog licenses sold were 452 in April 2016 compared to 651 in 2015. Total licenses sold year to date are down from last year. Staff is actively working on the dog licensing campaign. AACC surveyed the public and a high percentage of respondents said they purchased a dog license because it is the law. Some indicated they didn't know they needed a license. Others purchased a license to support animal programs/equipment. AACC will

likely utilize social media, radio and perhaps TV in the licensing campaign. Enforcement classified 5 animals in April. There were 58 animal bites this April compared to 60 in 2015. Dispatch received 512 requests for service this month compared to 502 in 2015. ALPS is close to fully staffing enforcement positions. Ms. Jackson asked about the pet population in Anchorage. Ms. Fetko noted the estimated pet population is based on the American Veterinary Medical Association pet population calculator.

Per the board's request, Dr. Wilson reported on Coshok's Canine Castle. AACC investigated the case by visiting the business unannounced. The officer examined the dog in question and required veterinary records for the pet. The dog was current on its rabies vaccination. The officer did not find violations after going through the entire facility. Inspections gather information as a point in time. There are two entities involved including a kennel and a rescue group. Rescue groups don't necessarily have facilities as they may utilize foster homes. AACC is required to interpret the code correctly and investigate properly. Although this particular complaint was closed, AACC will continue to make frequent unannounced visits to check on the facility. Members of the public should continue to provide information and/or documentation to AACC for review. Title 17 (Animals) requires AACC to identify the problem within a facility and give the owner a reasonable time to correct the problem. A license can be denied or revoked if the problem isn't addressed. A hearing on the denial or revocation may be requested by the owner. The ACAB is currently reviewing facility standards under Title 17.

The board also requested an update on the case Ms. Spencer described at the last board meeting. Dr. Wilson noted a dog got loose from a cable run in its yard and attacked another dog that had to be treated by a vet. The dog had been loose before, yet AACC hadn't received a report. AACC has spoken to the complainant and requested neighbors call in any future loose or aggressive activity. Because of the strict liability ruling, the dog couldn't be classified. The owner had taken action to keep the dog on a run, he hadn't intended for the dog to break the carabiner and get loose and injure another dog so a classification couldn't be issued. However, a citation was issued for failure to have a dog license and rabies vaccination. This case is an example of the need for code changes related to strict liability.

Ms. Atwood reported KTVA did a story on the need for foster care families. Ms. Jackson was interviewed resulting in a wonderful story which is currently on the AACC Facebook page. There was an Alaska Dispatch News story on fewer animals in the shelter. The reporter was concerned that more animals were being euthanized. However, Ms. Atwood and Dr. Wilson provided information on animals received, adopted, and claimed as well as data showing the percentage of animals being euthanized has decreased. Programs are working. The reduced number of animals coming into the shelter may be due to animals being rehomed on social media, high claim rates on stray animals (sometimes up to 70% for dogs), and spay/neuter programs. There are also a larger number of rescue groups in the community and the public is more aware of their existence. Copies of the article are available at the AACC information center. KTUU covered a dog bite story and Ms. Atwood stressed the importance of keeping all dogs restrained. Both KTUU and KTVA did stories on a dog shooting. KTVA covered dog etiquette and municipal leash laws. The Anchorage Press did a piece on an Assembly Member and their level 4 dog not being confined.

Ms. Atwood conducted 1 shelter tour of 2nd graders from Rabbit Creek Elementary and did school visits for 80 students at Campbell Elementary where the focus was on bite prevention. Staff held a rabies clinic at AACC to bring people to the shelter. Although the number of visitors was not as great as expected, AACC will be looking to increase participation for future events. Ms. Campbell mentioned the Calgary pet licensing campaign which was very successful and included cat licensing. Ms. Atwood noted it took 20 years to achieve 90% compliance in Calgary. The Anchorage licensing survey showed the #1 reason folks purchased a dog license was it's the law and #2 was funds help support the shelter. The tag line for the new campaign is "Love me with a License" and the artwork is a happy-faced dog. AACC is working on a rack card for veterinary clinics so they will have tools they need to sell licenses. Additionally, AACC will be working on PSAs and will pull out information for social media and audio for radio. Staff will also be making improvements to licensing reminder system.

6. Committee Reports:

a. Off-Leash Dog Area Committee (Ms. Epstein, Chair) – Ms. Epstein reported she has been talking with Governor's Office about signing HB147 in one of the dog parks next month.

i. University Lake – The community council approved the plan as is and are working on erosion control.

ii. South Anchorage Sports Park – This summer a 2/3 acre fence will go in. There will be a large unfenced area and a light in both the parking area and the fenced area.

iii. Valley of the Moon – Work is starting on sight line for safety. Next year, focus will be on parking lot improvements. A fenced area may go in this year.

iv. Whisper Faith Kovach Park (off Lore in between Lake Otis and the Seward Hwy) – Currently, there is no funding for the project.

v. Muldoon Square Park – This is approved for a fenced off leash area that is ¾ of an acre. They have some money. However, the fence wouldn't go in until next year.

vi. Arctic Benson Park – There is \$5,000 from the Park Foundation and they will be deciding what to do with the funding.

b. Title 17 Review Committee (Ms. Campbell, Chair) – Ms. Campbell reported the committee met on May 12th along with some rescue groups and mushers and asked them if there were any concerns or possible impacts on the groups if changes to Title 17 related barking were made. Folks from Mojos Hope, Straw for Dogs, and the mushing community were in attendance. It appears mushers aren't the problem with barking. It is more the multi-animal facility license holders that allow barking. Mushers could potentially be separated out of "multi-animal" license while other facilities would have a 5 minute barking limit. One idea was to make it so that facilities that have a certain number of verifiable complaints could lose their 20 minute exemption. The committee also discussed in cases where there are chronic calls, perhaps there could be a fee for responding that the owner would have to pay. This would not penalize responsible facilities. There are currently 333 licensed facilities in the Municipality of Anchorage.

The code has some vague areas that could possibly be modified. Any changes would need to be enforceable and recognize they would impact all residents of Anchorage as well as business owners. The Michigan Alliance has best practices for rescue and foster groups.

7. DHHS Staff Reports:

a. James Hagee – Ms. Fetko noted a new ACAB member, James Hagee, DVM, was appointed this week. He will be unable to attend the June meeting so his first meeting will be in July.

b. Title 17 Strict Liability Ordinance – Ms. Fetko reported the Assembly Public Hearing on the strict liability ordinance will be held June 7th. Ms. Hamer and Ms. Epstein plan to attend.

c. Board Member Recruitment – Ms. Fetko noted the board is in need of one more member and asked for recommendations. She noted DHHS could post information on Facebook if the board would like that to be accomplished.

8. New Business: None.

9. Informational Items:

a. Next Regular Meeting – The next regular board meeting will be held Thursday, June 23, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. in the classroom at the Animal Care and Control Center located at 4711 Elmore Road.

b. Next Title 17 Committee Meeting – The next committee meeting will be held Thursday June 16, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. in the classroom at the Animal Care and Control Center.

c. Presentation – Ms. Campbell noted she found an electronic file of her presentation at a Friends of Pets board meeting a few years ago which highlights the difference in numbers of animals coming into the shelter. It was very interesting to see the euthanasia rate drop significantly in the 8-9 year period she covered. She will share the presentation with the board.

d. Board Social – Ms. Epstein suggested a board social gathering after the June meeting and members agreed it was a great idea. She will send details out to board members and staff.

10. Adjournment: Ms. Campbell made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Ms. Jackson. With no objections the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.