



**Municipality of Anchorage**  
**Animal Control Advisory Board**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**August 25, 2016**



1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. by Ms. Christine Roalofs, DMD, Vice Chair. A quorum was present.

**Members Present:** Kari Campbell; Kayla Epstein; Christine Roalofs, DMD, Vice Chair; James Hagee, DVM; Jennifer Spencer

**Members Absent:** Allegra Hamer, Chair; Jay Jackson; Sandy Traini

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

2. **Minutes from the July 28, 2016 Meeting:** The following changes were requested to the July 28<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes:

- Standing reports section, the second sentence remove "decreased" as some statistic increase and some decreased; change "bark" citations to "barking" citations.
- Committee Reports section, 6a.iv. Change "bench park" to "park bench".

Motion to approve the minutes by Ms. Campbell and seconded by Ms. Epstein. The minutes were approved with the agreed upon changes.

3. **Requested Presentations:** None.

4. **Persons to be Heard:** None.

5. **Standing Reports:**

**Anchorage Animal Care and Control (AACC) Monthly Report and Public Outreach**

Dr. Wilson reported on July activities. The numbers for intakes and outtakes are similar to last month. The shelter received 144 cats in July 2016 compared to 144 in 2015. AACC received dogs 20 fewer dogs in 2016 compared to in 2015. In the other animals category the shelter received 25 this year compared to 40 during 2015. During the month of July 2016 AACC received 35 animals fewer than in July 2015. Year to date the shelter has received approximately 250 fewer animals compared to 2015. Feral cats received at the shelter year to date is 35 compared to 47 in 2015. Euthanized animals at the shelter was 299 year to date compared to 372 in 2015. Percentage of claimed and adopted animals is very similar to last year. Cats claimed were in the 20<sup>th</sup> percentile. This is good compared to national averages.

Dog licenses sold were 627 in July 2016 compared to 640 in 2015. Total licenses sold year to date are down from last year. Staff is actively working on the dog licensing public service announcement. They are in the process of getting rack cards for vendors to have on display approved and working on the message for the public service announcement. Year to date the total number of licenses sold is down 400.

Year to date AACC has done just under 200 spay/neuter surgeries during 2016. The average number of spay/neuters in a year is between 400-500, AACC is on track to meet that number during 2016. Dr. Wilson invited all members to take a tour of the facility if they were interested.

The number of requests for service received at AACC has increased from the past year. During July 2016 AACC received 623 requests compared to 590 in 2015. Loose animals reports were up about 20 calls and approximately 15 more barking letters were sent during July 2016 compared to July 2015. Classified animal numbers this year are down compared to last year. There were a few months that AACC didn't classify any animals due to the lack of a strict liability clause in the code; this should normalize since the recent code change. There were 103 tickets issued during July 2016 compared to 56 in 2015. Year to date the total number of notices of violation issued was 621 compared to 576 during 2015. There were 60 animal bites during July 2016 compared to 64 bites in July 2015. Fully staffed on officers, AACC is feeling well about the current staffing levels.

Ms. Atwood reported on the new licensing campaign, "Love me with a License". AACC is working on a rack card for veterinary clinics so they will have tools they need to sell licenses. Working on improving the license renewal system, the current system is not working efficiently. KTVA is interested in working with AACC to produce the PSA, it is expected to be coming out in the next few months. They are asking KTVA to donate the production of the PSA so they have more money to run the PSA.

AACC hosted a rabies clinic in August, provided over 100 rabies vaccines and sold 51 licenses. The SPCA provided 30 microchips and AACC donated a few as well. The Anchorage Press ran a story on the first AACC pet supply garage sale and combined the story with the rabies clinic. The story was a good piece of reporting, it went beyond the two events and really told the story of AACC nicely.

AACC walked in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade, this was a combination of volunteers, staff, and veterinarians. Ms. Atwood reported that she presented at the Moose lodge at their monthly business meeting on responsible pet ownership. She spoke to two pre-school groups at the South Central Foundation and the Denali Camp Fire program. The presentations to the children focused on how to be safe around animals and treat animals respectfully. AACC staffed a table at the Dog Jog which was organized by Friends of Pets. The AACC hosted their first garage sale during July, the community donates a lot of items to the shelter and some they can use and some they can't. They gave away everything they had available during the event. Straw for Dogs came to the event and gave away straw for dogs who live outside. They had one shelter tour of AACC for Hope Community Resources.

## **6. Committee Reports:**

### **a. Off-Leash Dog Area Committee (Ms. Epstein, Chair) – Ms. Epstein reported.**

i. University Lake – The University Master Plan is available and there were no surprises with the exception of one area that used to be off-leash no longer being designated as off-leash due to beaver attacks in that area. They made a decision to push the parking lot back to increase the visibility between park users pulling in the parking lot and the bikers coming off the trail and cross the parking lot. Ms. Epstein has asked the Governor's Office to sign the pet bill in the University Lake Off-Leash Dog Park. It would be nice if an event could be coordinated in a dog friendly location. They are discussing this bill being signed in October.

ii. Russian Jack – Ms. Epstein met with Steve Rafuse with Parks and Recreation. They walked Russian Jack and identified locations where signage could be placed to notify the public of where the off leash dog area is located in the park to help park users that don't know where it is located. Mr. Refuse is hesitant to move forward with additional signage for financial and safety reasons. Ms. Epstein will go to the community councils in the area of the park and try to get their support with the project.

**b. Title 17 Review Committee (Ms. Campbell, Chair) – Ms. Campbell reported** the committee met on Wednesday, August 17<sup>th</sup>. During this meeting the committee decided that they will focus on code changes for multi-animal facilities and levels of care. The committee will begin meeting twice a month. They will be discussing standards of care and an implementation plan. They considering a staggered implementation plan. They hope to have draft code changes ready for the board to review in the next few months.

## **7. DHHS Staff Reports:**

Ms. Fetko reported on the McHugh Creek wildfire. DHHS did not have to take any action during the situation but there was a lot of behind the scenes work being done. DHHS coordinated with AACC to determine how many pets could be sheltered at AACC if the need arose. DHHS also worked with the Horse Council to determine what their level of involvement would be if an evacuation was ordered. The AACC website has been updated with info about pet friendly hotels, boarding facilities and go-kits for animals. DHHS also worked on communicating air quality announcements to the public during the fire.

DHHS is starting to work on the 2017 operating budget process. There is a contract escalator in the AACC contract for the upcoming year.

## **8. New Business: None.**

**9. Informational Items:**

**a. Next Regular Meeting** – The next regular board meeting will be held Thursday, September 22, 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 tentatively, Thursday, September 22, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. in the classroom at the Animal Care and Control Center.

**10. Adjournment:** Ms. Campbell made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Ms. Spencer. With no objections the meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.