



Municipality of Anchorage  
**Animal Control Advisory Board**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**January 24, 2019**



1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Ms. Hamer. A quorum was present.

**Members Present:** Allegra Hamer, Chair; Mitzi Bolanos, Vice Chair; Cathy Foerster; Timothy Ebben; Jennifer Spencer; Pamela Schamber; Michelle Sinnott

**Members Absent:** Jay Jackson

**Staff Present:** Michael Tierney, Anchorage Health Department (AHD); Kristin Troxell, AHD; Myra Wilson, Animal Licensing and Placement Services (ALPS); Laura Atwood, ALPS

2. **Minutes from the December 20, 2018 Meeting:** Mr. Ebben made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bolanos. The minutes were approved as written.
3. **Requested Presentations:** None.
4. **New Business:** New Business was moved forward in the agenda with the concurrence of the board.

Assemblyman John Weddleton and Barbara Carlson presented a proposed Assembly Ordinance (AO) prohibiting domestic animals within the municipality Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area (CCENA) that would change Title 14, 17, and 25. Previously the Animal Control Advisory Board (ACAB) supported prohibiting dogs in CCENA with Resolution 2018-02; however, that resolution did not support placing the amended code in Title 17. The issue has been further discussed with the Anchorage Health Department, Parks and Recreation Department, Anchorage Police Department, and the Municipal Manager. All departments support this revised AO with Anchorage Animal Care and Control (AACC) responsible for enforcement on a low priority basis.

Ms. Bolanos expressed concern the proposed change did not allow for service animals to be off leash and could potentially be an enforceability issue, due to circumstances where the service animal could not be on a leash due and perform its required tasks. Assembly Weddleton thank Ms. Bolanos for her comments and will have Assembly Council take her concern under advisement.

Ms. Bolanos made a motion to support the AO. The motion was seconded by Ms. Schamber. The motion was approved unanimously. Mr. Weddleton thanked the

board for their service and asked they email or send any concerns or educational information to the Assembly.

## **5. Persons to be Heard:**

Kari Campbell expressed her concern regarding the recent death of a dog in a boarding facility. She asked for clarification on whether a boarding facility in a residential area was allowed to have a Commercial Facility License from Animal Control. Mr. Tierney stated in-home boarding facilities that collect fees for services require a Commercial Facility License but can be located in a residential zone if they have a business license. He clarified AACC can revoke a Commercial Facility License from Animal Control, but not a State Business License. Ms. Sinnott read aloud the definition of "commercial facility" from the code and clarified Title 17 does not prohibit a commercial facility from being in a home.

Cynthia White wanted to thank the ACAB for their work on revising Title 17. She had met with the Ombudsman and discussed some good ideas regarding animal ownership. Among those ideas: If someone gets a predetermined amount of citations within a year their animals are impounded and forfeited due to lack of proper care. She believes cameras should be required for boarding facilities and doggie daycares in play area or areas where the animals are unsupervised. Ms. White would like to see Title 17 updated to remove the substitution of an electronic collar for a regular leash. She would like to see criminal animal abuse cases charged with more than a misdemeanor in the State of Alaska.

## **6. Standing Reports:**

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

Dr. Wilson and Ms. Atwood reported on December 2018.

The total number of animals received year-to-date (YTD) as of December 2018 was 4,750 compared to 4,520 in 2017. A total of 113 cats and 170 dogs were received during December 2018. The 2018 YTD claim rate was 49% and the adoption rate was 72%. The cat claim rate during December 2018 was 26% and the dog claim rate was 80%. The total number of requests for service YTD was 5,174. Three animals were classified during December 2018 with a total of 58 classifications during 2018. A total of 1005 NOV's have been issued YTD. Animal bites YTD is 595, a decrease compared to last year at 617. The number of spay/neuter surgeries performed during 2018 at AACC is 482 compared to 440 in 2017. Just under 8000 volunteer hours were worked during 2018. The total number of dog licenses sold during December was 628 compared to 748 last year; with the current number of active dog license at year end is 12,134.

Community Outreach:

- AACC did not hold a monthly pet supplies and pet food giveaway due to the holidays. Food was put out on Christmas Eve for people to pick up during normal business hours and donated items were available throughout the month on a table in the lobby for people to pick up.

#### School Visits:

- No school visits.

#### Media Requests:

- Post-earthquake interviews regarding lost animals and how to help pets recover from the trauma of the earthquake with ADN, KTUU, and KTVA.
- Interviews regarding the new 2019 digital dog license tags and their benefits with FOX, KTVA, and KTUU news.
- KTUU ran a story on the Christmas Eve food bank at AACC.
- Senior Voice and the AHD Newsletter published articles on tips to keep your dog engaged inside when it is too icy, cold and/or dark to be outside.
- KTVA 11 Daybreak Adopt-a-Pet: Adoptable pets are featured by video or photos on Friday morning. There is a Caption Contest photo on the AACC Facebook page on Thursday. The hosts of Daybreak pick and feature the winner on Friday's show.
- Mix 103.1 – Weekly show on Wednesday's at 8:30 a.m. includes both on-air time and Facebook Live. The talking points from December included;
  - New digital MOA tags for 2019.
  - John Thompson from KTVA called in to talk about his experience adopting a dog from AACC.

#### Facebook:

- Facebook followers – 14,539 as of December 31st.
- Top five Facebook posts (1) Pot-bellied pig for adoption, (2) Christmas Eve food bank, (3) Earthquake preparedness, (4) November adoption numbers, and (5) KTVA story on the new dog tags.

Ms. Atwood pointed out two inaccuracies in a recent ADN article on January 22, 2019. The first that AACC cannot revoke an owner's business license. This was updated on the online news article. The second, that staffing numbers, animal numbers, and schedules are asked for during an inspection.

## **6. Committee Reports:**

- a. **Off-Leash Dog Area Committee – (Cathy Foerster)** – No report.
- b. **Title 17 Review Committee – (Mitzi Bolanos)** – Reviewed the final version of the revisions to Title 17 that has been reviewed by the MOA Legal Department. One item was inadvertently left out regarding pinch collars. Ms. Bolanos requested that the document be updated to include this proposed language. Ms. Sinnott had proposed changes to the added protective custody bond that included notification requirements and clarify forfeiture of animals regardless of the outcome of the case is due to failure to pay the bond. Ms. Sinnott will send Mr. Tierney her recommendations to forward to legal for review. Ms. Spencer made a motion to approve the currently proposed updates to Title 17 with the

addition of the language regarding pinch collars. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ebben. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Tierney will send out a revised document with any changes to the protective custody bond section for the ACAB's approval. The vote will be done electronically.

**7. DHHS Staff Reports:**

Michael Tierney, AHD – The ordinance on Chronic Animal Noise AO No. 2018-112(S) was passed by the Assembly. The ordinance adds a “reasonability” clause for domestic animals other than dogs. He stated the dogs that were living in the Dodge Durango are in protective custody and there is an ongoing investigation. There has been a request to adopt a protocol for fostering dogs in protective custody for which a request for legal review has been submitted. Mr. Tierney handed out the “Operating Rules and Procedures” from the ACAB Handbook. The document was last updated in 2002. Mr. Tierney is asking the ACAB members to review and propose any changes at the February meeting.

**8. Old Business: None.**

**9. Informational Items:**

- a. The ACAB want to publicly thank Kari Campbell for her work and dedication on the proposed Title 17 while she was the Chair of the Title 17 Subcommittee of the ACAB.
- b. Mr. Tierney stated the ACAB will be accepting nominations for Chair and Vice Chair at the next ACAB meeting.
- c. Three members of the ACAB (Mitzi Bolanos, Timothy Ebben, and Pam Schamber) want to state that they found their special purpose license inspections from AACC to be extremely thorough and professional. Ms. Campbell stated her experience was different and did not include some areas of her facility.
- d. Next Regular Meeting – The next regular board meeting will be held Thursday, February 28, 2019, at 5:30 p.m.

**11. Adjournment: Ms. Bolanos made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ms. Spencer. With no objections, the meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.**