



Municipality of Anchorage
Animal Control Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
October 27, 2016



1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:39 p.m. by Ms. Hamer. A quorum was present.

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

Members Absent: James Hagee, DVM

Staff Present: DeeAnn Fetko, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS); Kristin Troxell, DHHS; Laura Atwood, Animal Licensing and Placement Services (ALPS)

2. **Minutes from the September 22, 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:**

Assembly Member Eric Croft – This presentation is in response to constituent complaints in Mr. Croft's neighborhood. The complaints surrounded an issue where a dog killed another dog as a result was classified. The pet owner has had repeated violations for failure to comply with classification restrictions that resulted from the incident. Assemblyman Croft researched the issues surrounding these types of incidents and found the current fine structure is not enough of a consequence for some animal owners that have dangerous animals in their custody. In some circumstances the owner of a dangerous animal may fight the charges, contest the fines or pay the fines but they are not willing to take the required safety precautions with the animal therefore putting others in danger. Mr. Croft proposed an update to Municipal Code Section Title 17.40.040 – Regulation of Classified animals that would allow the chief animal control officer the discretion to: increase or decrease a classified animal's restrictions based upon relevant circumstances and to reclassify to a level five an animal previously classified as a level three or four upon a third violation of 17.40.040 (B)(3). The proposal would provide for an additional consequence once the animal owner tops out the fine schedule. This proposal has not been routed through the MOA Legal Department for their approval yet, no action will be taken on this proposal at this meeting, this was an introduction to the proposal.

5. **Standing Reports:**

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

Laura Atwood reported on September activities. She reported on the percentages of claimed and adopted cats and dogs. The cat claim rate is 22% and dog claim rate is 74%. The cat adoption rate is 90% and the dog adoption rate is 86%. AACC received the most requests for service during September for loose animals with 105 calls, those numbers typically decrease during the winter months. The other categories that received high numbers of calls were animal bites (59) and animal welfare checks (66). During September there was one media interview with Alaska Parent Magazine on how to prevent dog and cat bites to children.

Officer Cross participated in an outreach event during September at Fairview Rec Center, he visited the center on the same day as the mobile food pantry and gave away 175 lbs. of donated pet food. They hosted a monthly pet supply give away on the last Wednesday of September. The school presentations to K-6th Grade classes have started up again. AACC presentations are typically on the topics of caring for pets in the home, how to behave around pets appropriately and how to prevent animal bites. During September they gave their first presentation of the school year at Northern Lights School and presented to forty-four 1st Grade Students.

The license campaign continues, AACC has the new license renewal forms available for use and have started mailing them out. The public service announcement is scheduled for filming this Tuesday, November 1st.

6. Committee Reports:

a. Off-Leash Dog Area Committee (Ms. Epstein, Chair) – A date has been selected for the public hearing on the University Lake plan, it is on the Assembly Agenda for January 10th at 6:30pm. There is discussion about designating some of the funding available for Valley of the Moon Park upgrades to lighting for safety reasons, following the homicides that occurred there. The work being done at South Anchorage sports Park is continuing. The estimate for the off-leash dog area came back much higher than expected. This will be completed in-house rather than contracted out to save money. Arctic Benson Dog Park is getting some surface improvements, it can be very muddy at times. The Whisper Faith Park request for funds is going to be submitted next year. There have been some problems with dog feces not being cleaned up at few parks, this is occurring in fenced areas at the parks that are designated for sports but the sports are seasonal therefore they are only being used for the intended purpose for three months of the year. When the fenced areas are not being used for sports people are taking their dogs there to play and not everyone is cleaning up after their pets. Steve Rafuse with Parks and Recreation, would like to see a city wide needs assessment completed for the Municipality of Anchorage to determine if that might help to resolve this problem. Ms. Epstein made a motion to write a letter to the CEO of Merrill Field to inquire about the possibility of fencing a portion of the open space along 15th Ave to be used as an off-leash dog area. This conversation was started about two years ago and they haven't heard back yet. The motion was seconded by Ms. Traini. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Title 17 Review Committee (Ms. Campbell, Chair) – Ms. Campbell reported the committee has met and is working on a draft using some of the language that they found by researching the ordinances that are in place in Rio Rancho, NM. This draft is

going to address defining terms and separating out individual entities so that all facilities are not lumped together as multi-use or commercial facilities. They will continue working on this at their next meeting scheduled for November 2nd at 2:00pm at the AACC Classroom.

7. DHHS Staff Reports:

DeeAnn Fetko, DHHS Deputy Director – Provided an update on the situation at Coshok's Castle; a denial letter for the commercial use facility license has been issued. The case is currently in the legal process and the owner has a right to request a hearing on the matter within 15 business days from the date of the issuance of the letter.

The proposed municipal budget that will be going in front of the Assembly does not include an escalator for AACC contract. The escalator this year was about a one percent increase or \$22,000.00. AACC and DHHS are currently navigating how to absorb this with a minimal impact to services. There have been some capital projects proposed including replacing the roof at AACC and upgrading the phone system to include intercom capabilities.

8. New Business:

Peggy Robinson – Midtown Community Council – Ms. Robinson introduced the Midtown Community Council Resolution 2016-7 titled Arctic Benson Dog Park – Restricted Hours. The request of this resolution is that the signs be removed at Arctic Benson dog park that designate certain times for the use of small dogs (25 lbs and under) and service dogs only. The opinion of the Midtown Community Council is that the signs designating restricted hours are not working as intended and that the correct process was not followed to put the restricted hours in place. No action will be taken at this meeting however this topic will be revisited by the ACAB.

9. Informational Items:

a. Governor Bill Walker signed the pet act and it was a wonderful ceremony, it was very honoring of Max Gruenberg's work to protect pets and families. Anchorage Fire Station 3 was named in honor of Max Gruenberg for his focus on public safety and his legislative contributions related to arson prosecution and mandatory installation of carbon monoxide detectors in building construction.

b. **Next Regular Meeting** – The next regular board meeting will be held Tuesday, December 13, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. in the classroom at the Animal Care and Control Center located at 4711 Elmore Road.

c. **Next Title 17 Committee Meeting** – The next committee meeting will be held Thursday November 2, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. in the classroom at the Animal Care and Control Center.

10. Adjournment: Ms. Hamer made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Ms. Spencer. With no objections the meeting adjourned at 6:29 p.m.