



Municipality of Anchorage  
**Animal Control Advisory Board**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**December 13, 2016**



1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m. by Ms. Hamer. A quorum was present.

**Members Present:** Allegra Hamer, Chair; Christine Roalofs, DMD, Vice Chair; Kari Campbell; Sandy Traini; James Hagee, DVM; Michael Zechman

**Members Absent:** Jennifer Spencer; Jay Jackson; Kayla Epstein

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

2. **Minutes from the October 27, 2016 Meeting:** Motion to approve the minutes by Ms. Traini and seconded by Ms. Campbell. The minutes were approved as written.
3. **Requested Presentations:** Fuzzy Logic Squirrels presented on their project for First Lego League titled "Animal Allies". The topic was zoonosis and the health of animals in pet stores. They requested feedback by 1/13/2017 sent to: [bikemoredriveless@hotmail.com](mailto:bikemoredriveless@hotmail.com).

4. **Persons to be Heard:**

Kamala Stiner – Straw for Dogs – This group advocates for quality care of animals that live outdoors. She proposed an update to Title 17 to add the definition of shelter as a five sided shelter with a roof, floor and three sides. Additionally for the safety and comfort of animals they are requesting language be added that would require collars; not chains, be used for tie out. It is their belief that heavy chains around a dogs neck could potentially lead to injury or death.

5. **Standing Reports:**

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

Dr. Myra Wilson reported on October and November activity.

October Report: AACC received more animals in October 2016 than October of 2015. The increase was in the cat category due to a case where 12-15 cats were released to AACC from one household. AACC received 159 cats in October 2015 and 184 cats in October 2016. The number of dogs decreased from 198 dogs in October 2015 to 172

during October 2016. The number of other animals was 35 for October 2015 and 39 during October 2016. The total number of animals received to date is up by about 12 animals this year compared to last year. Feral cats received year to date was 57 year-to-date (YTD) in 2015 compared to 52 YTD in 2016. It does not appear the number of feral cats is increasing much. Cat claim rate is in the 20<sup>th</sup> percentile. In October, AACC was down about ten spay/neuters from last year. The number of animal bites was fairly consistent with last year, there was 47 in October 2016 compared to 46 October 2015. The total number of Notice of Violations (NOV) is increasing. There were 917 NOV's issued YTD in 2016 compared to 772 YTD in 2015. AACC has implemented a system to generate electronic NOV's whereas previously all NOV's were handwritten by officers. Dispatch calls remained steady this year compared to last year, 442 calls during October 2016 compared to 443 in October 2015.

November Report: AACC took in 41 fewer animals in November 2016 than they did in November of 2015. YTD AACC received 4,200 total animals at this time last year compared to 3,861 during 2016. There were 6 fewer other animals received in 2016 compared to 2015. There were 20 fewer dogs received in 2016 compared to 2015; 145 dogs were received in November 2016 compared to 165 November 2015. There were 23 fewer cats received in 2016 compared to 2015, 132 cats were received in November 2016 compared to 155 November 2015. The adopted animal numbers YTD are very similar to last year, 1,722 animals were adopted this year compared to 1,791 last year. AACC has some animals that go to rescue groups. Claim numbers YTD in 2016 is 1,025 compared to 1,200 YTD in 2015. Feral cats received was 60 in 2015 compared to 52 in 2016. Licensing numbers are not increasing as quickly as AACC would like; during November 2016 the total number of licenses sold was 460 compared to 527 in November 2015. Spays and Neuters were down again this month, 415 compared to 333 in 2016. This is a reflection of the number of animals coming in. The total number of NOV's is increasing, there were 990 NOV's issued in November 2016 compared to 881 in November 2015. The number of animal bites this year is very similar to last year, during November 2016 32 animal bites were reported compared to 28 in November 2015.

The national American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) took a tour of the AACC facility and asked what the center needed. The ASPCA has a North West Initiative Grant that can be used to help shelters. AACC asked for a medical assistance fund to assist rescue groups with medical costs who rescue animals from the shelter that can't be adopted out due to medical reasons. AACC has been awarded two grants from the ASPCA. AACC has been approved for \$26,000 to be used for medical costs and \$6,300 for a new sanitation disinfectant system that will reduce the amount of personal protective equipment used by staff and the amount of bleach currently being used.

Laura Atwood reported on October and November activity.

There were several media requests during October and November:

- KTUU requested information regarding a boy's dog who was killed in a hit and run.
- KTVA requested information regarding a dog that was injured at South Anchorage Dog Park by a trap.

- KTVA ran an educational story on the proper use of the AACC night drop area. The article covered the purpose and appropriate use of the night drop kennels.
- YourAlaskaLink.com and KTVA ran an article about Halloween pet safety.
- KTVA requested information about Animal Rescue Friends vacating Coshok's and the Coshok's facility license denial.
- KTUU, KTVA and Alaska Dispatch News all covered the AACC Holiday Open House event.

AACC participated in several outreach activities during October and November including:

- Animal food giveaways at Fairview Recreation Center and Bean's Cafe
- Pet Supply Give Aways
- Holiday Open House at AACC

Shelter Tours of the AACC Facility were given to the following groups during October and November:

- Life Skills Students and their chaperones from Whaley High School
- The New Director of the Animal Shelter in Homer

School visit made during October and November:

- Lego Robotics Club at Sand Lake Elementary
- Northern Lights ABC
- Ravenwood Elementary
- College Gate Elementary
- Huffman Elementary
- Bowman Elementary
- Russian Jack Elementary
- Inlet View Elementary
- Taku Elementary

## 6. **Committee Reports:**

**a. Off-Leash Dog Area Committee (Ms. Epstein, Chair)** – Ms. Epstein was not in attendance to report. Ms. Fetko advised that the University Lake Master Plan conditional use permit is going through the process.

**b. Title 17 Review Committee (Ms. Campbell, Chair)** – Ms. Campbell reported the committee has a draft proposed revision to Title 17 ready. The subcommittee would like to move forward with the revisions regarding chronic animal noise and implementing a special purpose license for mushers. Motion was made by Ms. Traini and seconded by Ms. Campbell to move the proposed revisions to Title 17 Code section to the MOA Legal Department for their review. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.

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

Michael Tierney, DHHS Administration reported Doyon has renewed their contract for 2017. He provided an update on Coshok's facility license denial. Coshok's appealed the

denial and subsequently requested to meet with the MOA. Coshok's has severed their relationship with Alaska Animal Rescue Friends (AARF) and started renovations to their facility, as well as changed their management. AACC verified all of the AARF animals had been removed from the facility and ensured animals could be housed there safely in the renovated area. The hearing has been postponed. There have been no final decision made at this time regarding the license renewal.

## **8. New Business:**

A motion was made to advise Assemblyman Croft that if he chooses to go forward with his proposal to revise Title 17 to elevated an animal classified as level three or four to a five upon a fourth violation of Title 17, 17.40.040 that the ACAB will not oppose the proposal. Motion made by Ms. Roalofs and seconded by Mr. Hagee. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.

It has been determined by the ACAB that the sign installed at the Artic Benson Park designating small dogs only hours did not go through the proper process for implementation. The ACAB and the MOA Parks and Recreation Department did not approve the sign to be installed. The ACAB recommends that the sign be removed and if the community would like small dog only hours that the proper process for implementation be followed.

Ms. Campbell made a motion to move into Executive Session, seconded by Ms. Traini. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously. The ACAB entered into an executive session at 6:47 pm.

Ms. Campbell made a motion to move out of Executive Session, seconded by Ms. Traini. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously. The ACAB meeting resumed at 7:02 pm.

## **9. Informational Items:**

- a. Next Regular Meeting – The next regular board meeting will be held Thursday, January 26, 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 January 12, 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. Campbell. With no objections the meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.