



Municipality of Anchorage  
**Animal Control Advisory Board**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**February 23, 2017**



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; Kari Campbell; James Hagee, DVM; Michael Zechman; Jay Jackson; Jennifer Spencer; Christine Roalofs, Vice Chair; DMD

**Members Absent:** Kayla Epstein, Sandy Traini

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

2. **Minutes from the January 27, 2017 Meeting:** Motion to approve the minutes by Ms. Campbell and seconded by Mr. Hagee. The minutes were approved as written.

3. **Requested Presentations:** None.

4. **Persons to be Heard:**

Al Milspaugh, UACC Vice President – Seeking ACAB endorsement of a resolution to the Assembly 2017-01 calling for the establishment of Park Rangers. He believes the presence of park rangers will help to eliminate and/or minimize dangerous and undesirable situations in Anchorage parks. Park Rangers would inform the public of an infraction; but not cite them, and alert the proper authorities if needed.

Marilyn Houser is really firm about dogs being on leash and people cleaning up after their dogs when out enjoying public areas in Anchorage. She asked if an electronic collar is acceptable to satisfy Title 17. Electronic collars are discussed in the definitions section of Title 17.

5. **Standing Reports:**

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

Dr. Myra Wilson reported on January activity.

AACC received 20 fewer animals in January 2017 than in January 2016; 15 less dogs and 5 less cats. The adoption and claim rates remained very similar between 2016 and 2017. During 2016 the adoption rate was 87% compared to 83% in 2017. The claim rate was 53% during 2016 compared to 57% during 2017. The total number of licenses sold

year to date increased. There were 466 licenses sold during January 2017 compared to 394 sold during January 2016. During January 2017 AACC completed 26 cat spay/neuter surgeries and no dogs, compared to last year 35 cat spay/neuter surgeries and no dogs. Total requests for services are down 30 calls from last year. The number of dead animals in public places decreased this year with only 8 during January 2017 compared to 25 during January 2016. AACC classified 8 animals during January 2017 compared to 3 during January 2016. Year to date 90 violations have been issued during 2017. AACC responded to 42 reports of animal bites during January 2017, compared to 28 during January 2016. During January 2017 AACC had a Customer Service and a Kennel Tech resign and replacements were hired.

Laura Atwood reported on January activity.

There were several media requests during January:

- KTVA & KTUU requested interviews regarding keeping pets safe in cold weather.

AACC participated in the following outreach activity during January:

- Monthly Pet Supply & Pet Food Give-Away

Shelter Tours of the AACC Facility were given to the following groups during January:

- Girl Scout Troop – 9 members and 2 chaperones

School visit made during January:

- Tudor Elementary – Presented to 39 students on Animal Care and Safety

## **6. Committee Reports:**

**a. Off-Leash Dog Area Committee (Ms. Epstein, Chair)** – Ms. Epstein was not in attendance to report.

**b. Title 17 Review Committee (Ms. Campbell, Chair)** – Ms. Campbell reported on the committee activities. The committee submitted the ordinance approved by ACAB at the December meeting to the MOA Legal Department for review. They have received feedback from the MOA Legal Department with some minor revisions for clarification, The Title 17 Committee is actively working on the next set of revision to Title 17, standards of care for rescue groups and commercial facilities.

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

Michael Tierney, DHHS Administration – The ACAB member list has been updated online removing phone numbers and addresses; only emails are posted. A link will be sent out for ACAB members to complete a disclosure of conflicts of interest form. Please review and if needed submit an update form.

## **8. New Business:**

Public Comment on Proposed Resolution to Title 17 - Adding a Mushing Special Purpose License and changing the definition of Chronic Animal Noise so only holders of a Mushing Special Purpose License will receive the 20 minute noise exceptions.

Marlene Britton, AK Must Love Dogs – Their business moved into a facility on Lake Otis Blvd. that borders to a residential neighborhood, they frequently receive complaints from upset neighbors about barking. She would like to know what her rights are as a dog daycare facility business owner. ACAB members advised that Title 17 reads that barking at a dog day care facility can not exceed 5 minutes of continuous barking. Citizens can file a formal complaint by calling Animal Care and Control Dispatch. Proof in the form of either a recording or a written document (signed by at least two neighbors) verifying the chronic barking should be submitted.

Val Jokela, President of Chugiak Dog Mushers – Thanked the committee for allowing the public participation in this process. The group did a great job of capturing the ideas that were put forward. In 100% support of the proposed resolution; this is exactly what the mushing community needs in order to allow for them to remain in compliance with Title 17 while preparing, loading, and unloading to get the dog teams to get them on and off the properties.

Pam Schambe, Member of Chugiak Dog Mushers – Thanked the group for addressing this issue. She expressed that she knows a lot of work is going into this process and she is really glad that the committee is considering these changes.

Kim Wells – Participates in ski touring and mushing activities in the community, has several dogs and is in attendance to express her support of the proposed changes.

Neil Koeniger – Was not present at the meeting but provided comments regarding the definition itself, some dogs are trained to pull sleds or carts. Recommends the ACAB Title update the definition to specify that it applies for the purpose of mushing. Recommended either adding mushing to the multi-animal license or otherwise an additional fee schedule would need to be added.

**9. Informational Items:**

- a. Fur Rondy Festival is this weekend in Anchorage. Everyone is encouraged to go out in support of the event and watch the sprint races.
- b. Next Regular Meeting – The next regular board meeting will be held Thursday, March 23, 2017 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 March 9, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. in the classroom at the Animal Care and Control Center.

**10. Adjournment:** Mr. Zechman made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Ms. Campbell. With no objections the meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m.