



Municipality of Anchorage
Animal Control Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
March 22, 2018



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; Mitzi Bolanos; Jennifer Spencer, Cathy Foerster, Jay Jackson, Michelle Sinnott, Tim Ebben

Members Absent: Christine Roalofs, Vice Chair

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

2. **Minutes from the February 8, 2018 Meeting:**

Ms. Spencer made a motion to approve the minutes. Motioned was seconded by Ms. Bolanos. The minutes were approved as written.

3. **Requested Presentations:** None

4. **Persons to be Heard:**

Barbara Carlson, Friends of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge (FAR) – FAR is seeking ACAB's support to prohibit dogs and other domestic animals at the Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area (CCENA). FAR is a volunteer group that provides 13 volunteers at CCENA that assist with caring for the area by picking up trash, repairing vandalized signs, and educating the public about the area. When the master plan for CCENA was originally established it was asserted that this area would be developed as an area prohibiting use by dogs and other domestic animals for the purposes of conservation and preservation of the habitat ecosystems. The rules are posted at CCENA and indicate that domestic animals are not allowed in the area; however, there are recent and continuing challenges about the legality of bringing domestic animals into the area. FAR requests that the Municipality of Anchorage establish an ordinance prohibiting dogs and other domestic animals at CCENA so that the legality of the issue can't be disputed. The FAR volunteers are willing to assist with enforcement of the ordinance. FAR is requesting the ACAB pass a resolution in support of this effort. Further discussion tabled to the ACAB April 2018 meeting agenda.

5. Standing Reports:

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

Myra Wilson reported on February 2018 statistics.

The total number of animals received year-to-date during 2018 was 588. A total of 284 animals were received during February 2018, compared to 395 animals during February 2017. The February 2018 cat claim rate was 11% and the cat adoption rate was 58%. The February 2018 dog claim rate was 73% and the dog adoption rate was 77%. During the month of February 2018, there were 396 dog licenses sold. The total number of dog licenses sold year-to-date is 791. The total number of requests for service during February 2018 was 280. The total number of requests year-to-date 2018 is 582. The total number of NOV's issued during February 2018 was 45. Year-to-date the total number of NOV's issued is 106. February animal bites were 28, and year-to-date is 71.

Media requests for February 2018:

- KTUU, KTVA, and Fox were present at the kick-off of the Ashley Perry Shelter Animal Reading Program. Ashley, Laura Atwood, and some of the young readers were interviewed by KTUU. Mayor Berkowitz was in attendance.
- Captain Larson and Laura Atwood were interviewed on KSKA's Hometown Alaska program. Topics included how animals arrive at the shelter, how AACC works with rescue partners, and Title 17 questions (e.g leash laws).
- Lauren Maxwell from KTVA interviewed Laura Atwood regarding the Spay Day promotion with Friends of Pets. They talked about the logistics of the promotion and the importance of spay/neuter your pets.
- KTUU also came to the spay/neuter coupon giveaway on World Spay Day and interview Laura Atwood. They talked about the logistics of the promotion and the importance of spay/neuter your pets.

Shelter Tours and School Presentations during February 2018:

- Presented to 23 students at Bowman Elementary regarding safety around dogs and preventing animal bites.
- Provided a shelter tour to 25 fifth grade students from Aquarian Charter School. The students delivered home-made cat beds and dog treats.

Facebook for 2018:

- Facebook followers – 12,444 as of March 2018.
- Percentage of unique users who engaged with our AACC content between 2/2/18 to 3/1/18 was 16%.
- Top post for February was the story of Officer Jonsen finding an ermine who had been caught in a glue trap and dropped off at our night drop kennel. The second highest post was a thank you to a young man who made homemade treats for dogs at the shelter. The post featured him giving the treats to the dogs in the AACC in the public area.

6. Committee Reports:

a. Off-Leash Dog Area Committee – (Cathy Foerster)

Ms. Foerster attended the Scoop the Poop meeting on February 9th. The date selected as Scoop the Poop Day is April 28th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the following dog parks: South Anchorage, University Lake, and Connors Bog. Supplies will be provided onsite at those locations.

Ms. Foerster also attended the March 8th Parks and Recreation Commission meeting on behalf of the ACAB in support of the Whisper Faith Kovach Memorial Park. The Parks and Recreation Commission voted in support of the proposed upgrades to the park.

b. Title 17 Review Committee – (Mitzi Bolanos)

Ms. Bolanos presented the highlights of the draft revision to Title 17 prepared by the committee. Suggestions made for further revisions to the following sections:

17.10.050 - Standards for operating animals facilities:

17.10.050.A.2 - Include a definition of kennel or possibly change to enclosure to be specific, since it will apply to all domestic animals and not just dogs. Consider removing the word daily as it may not be necessary to clean daily depending on the species.

17.10.050.B.2 - Change Animal Control to Animal Care and Control.

17.15.010.A – Do not remove the first sentence, but delete “wolf hybrid” from the sentence.

Request for every board member to review the draft in detail and send comments in writing by email to Ms. Bolanos by April 4th so the comments can be addressed at the next Title 17 meeting on April 5th.

7. DHHS Staff Reports:

Michael Tierney, DHHS Administration – Ashley Harmon’s application to become an ACAB member will forward to the Assembly for confirmation. The plans for the new DHHS building have changed and the building is now scheduled for completion around 2020. Proposition 7, Areawide Facilities Capital Improvement Project Bonds is on the April Municipal ballot provides for a roof replacement for the Anchorage Animal Care and Control facility should it pass.

8. New Business:

Chronic Animal Noise Definition Proposal – The Municipal Office of the Ombudsman is proposing a revision to AMC 17.05.010. The recommendation would add the following language to the chronic animal noise definition in the code; “where such vocalizations

unreasonably disturb the peace, quiet, or repose of a person or persons of ordinary sensibilities". It was noted that similar language was removed from code in the past because it was difficult to enforce, and that the language should to be more specific in order to be enforceable. Additionally, such a change will impact all animals, not just chickens, which is what prompted the proposed change. Ms. Jackson stated the ACAB should review the issue and make a recommendation to support or not. Ms. Spencer requested that data about the frequency of noise complaints by species and comparison of the number of complaints to the number of citations issued. ACAB members will review the proposal and be prepared to discuss at the April ACAB meeting. If members would like to request additional information for consideration the requests for information should be emailed to Mr. Tierney.

9. Informational Items:

- a. Next Regular Title 17 Committee Meeting will be held April 5, 2018, at 1:00 pm in the classroom at the Animal Care and Control Center located at 4711 Elmore Road.
- b. Next Regular Meeting – The next regular board meeting will be held Thursday, April 26, 2018, at 5:30 p.m. in the classroom at the Animal Care and Control Center located at 4711 Elmore Road.

10. Adjournment: Ms. Foerster made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Ms. Jackson. With no objections, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.