



Municipality of Anchorage
Animal Control Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
May 25, 2017



1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. by Ms. Hamer. A quorum was present.

Members Present: Allegra Hamer, Chair; Cathy Foerster, Jennifer Spencer; Kari Campbell; Michael Zechman; Sandy Traini

Members Absent: Christine Roalofs, Vice Chair; Jay Jackson

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

The board welcomed its newest member, Cathy Foerster

2. **Minutes from the April 27, 2017 Meeting:** Ms. Traini made a motion to approve the minutes. Motioned seconded by Mr. Zechman. The minutes were approved as written.
3. **Requested Presentations:** None.
4. **Persons to be Heard:** None
5. **Standing Reports:**

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

Dr. Myra Wilson reported on April 2017.

Animal Control was busier this April compared to last year. AACC took in 62 more dogs, 10 more cats, and 25 more miscellaneous animals this year than April of 2016. The number of owner surrender cats was 60 compared to 22 for April of last year. AACC had 27 cats from one home that is an anomaly. Most of those cats passed evaluation and were adopted. There were 2 feral cats for April and 3 total for the year. Feral cats, not just unfriendly cats, as based on observation of non-social behaviors; lack of eye contact, lack of blinking, lack of response to warm social interaction, no meowing or chirping.

Cathy Foerster asked how AACC receives their animals. Animals are dropped off at AACC either as strays or owner surrenders, impounds calls from APD or AFD, or picked up by Animal Control Officers as strays in the field. The claim rate for cats by owners is 17%; nationally the owner claim rate at shelters is around 2-3%. April 2017 was a good

license sale month; sold 120 more licenses than April 2016. AACC spayed and neutered 40 cats compared to 29 last April. Last April there were 512 calls for service and this April there were 539 service calls. Of those calls, there were 8 more animals in custody, 8 more loose animals, and 10 more animal welfare checks. There were 10 less barking complaints in April of 2017. Pretty similar number of bites, 59 this April, compared to 58 last April. The total bites for the year was up from 158 last year to 195 this year.

Kari Campbell asked if we know whether bites were to a family member or to a stranger. The relationship between the animal and the victim is noted in the officer's narrative report, but it is not tracked as a separate sortable field in Chameleon [database]. Most bites are generally to family or family friends.

Based on completed survey results, the top reason for relinquishment as of April 2017 was moving, 27 this year compared to 9 last year; second this year was cost (veterinarian care and food), and third was no time for the animal. This time last year the top reason was someone deceased in the family, followed by too many animals.

A study by Emily Weiss, Vice President for Research and Development ASPCA, included a survey that broke down the reasons people relinquish their animals to shelters: (1) animal issue – barks, is aggressive, etc. (2) person issue – allergy, divorce, etc. (3) home issue – renters, military, etc. Found most are animal issues; behavior or veterinary care issue. For rehomed animals; that is given to family, friends, or others (other than a shelter), typically do not have behavior or veterinary care issues.

Kari Campbell asked about the distinction between loose animals and other loose animal on the dispatch page. "Loose Animals" (Priority 7) is a request where a loose animal is acting aggressively and/or an individual is willing to provide a written statement regarding the activity. "Other Loose Animals (Priority 12) are those not included in Priority 7; such as a non-aggressive dog found on patrol.

Laura Atwood reported on April activity.

Media requests during April:

- KTVA did a story on loose dogs. Three loose dogs were brought in during this time and they were able to film a dog being brought in and being claimed.
- KTUU did a story about AACC monthly pet supplies and giveaways.
- KTUU inquired about the "dumpster" puppies, which at that time were still in foster care. (All the puppies were adopted out today within three hours).

AACC participated in the following outreach activity during April:

- Staffed a table at the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) health fair. Handed out packets of information including licensing.
- A volunteer was at the Fairview Recreation Center. Approximately 50 gallon sized bags of dog and cat food was given away.

- Hosted first Pet Health Day. Rabies vaccinations were given at the reduced rate of five dollars. Friends of Pets gave away spay/neuter assistance coupons. Straw for Dogs provided information about quality care for dogs living outside.
- Monthly pet supply and giveaway at AACC. Very well received, everything was taken.
- Short videos being worked on.
- Continue licensing efforts via DHHS and Facebook.

Shelter Tours during April:

- Girl Scout troop with 10 members.

6. Committee Reports:

a. Off-Leash Dog Area Committee – (Michael Tierney)

i. Whisper Faith Kovach Park: Planning will begin in the fall. An off-leash dog park was identified during preliminary planning. A formal process will occur with support and input from the ACAB prior to approval by the Parks & Recreation Commission and Assembly.

ii. University Lake Park: UACC is requesting that Parks & Recreation include funds for University Lake in the 2018 bond package to begin implementation of the recently approved master plan. The plan can be found on the Parks & Recreation web site. There are several improvements in the works.

iii. South Anchorage Sports Park: Last summer Parks & Recreation began developing new trails for the off-leash area. They are currently getting bids for fencing a little and big dog area. This will also include lighting and amenities.

iv. Valley of the Moon Park: Parks & Recreation will be expanding the parking lot this summer. Because of existing mature trees and the location of the picnic shelter, the footprint of the current ballfield/dog park will be slightly reduced. However, there will be a new ADA accessible path to the dog park, upgraded double entrance gates, and new amenities to support the off-leash area.

b. Title 17 Review Committee – (Ms. Campbell, Chair)

Ordinance 2017-87, establishing a mushing license and dealing with chronic animal noise was introduced at the May 23 Assembly meeting. Public comment is set for June 13. Anybody who wants to testify is welcome to attend. The committee is the final stages of a draft proposal to make changes to care and sanitation in Title 17. Next committee meeting is scheduled for June 8, at 2:00 p.m. at AACC.

7. DHHS Staff Reports:

Michael Tierney, DHHS Administration – The State recently passed a statute that requires owners who have an animal in custody awaiting court to put up a bond for the care of the animal. He would like to put in on the agenda of the Title 17 committee to look at requiring the same in the municipal code. Animals in custody awaiting a cruelty case can sometimes remain impounded for months pending a trial. He would also like to remove

obsolete references to wolf hybrids in the code since wolf hybrids are not allowed within the Municipality.

8. New Business:

Nominating Committee – Jennifer Spencer volunteered to serve as the Chair of the nominating committee and was selected. She will send out an email to poll the members on their nominations for Animal Control Advisory Board Chair and Vice Chair.

Off-Leash Dog Area Committee – Cathy Foerster volunteered and was selected to be the Chair of the Off-Leash Dog Area Committee.

9. Informational Items:

- a. Next Regular Meeting – The next regular board meeting will be held Thursday, June 22, 2017 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 meeting will be held Thursday, June 8, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. in the classroom at the Animal Care and Control Center.

- 10. Adjournment:** Ms. Traini made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Ms. Campbell. With no objections the meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.