



Municipality of Anchorage
Animal Control Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
June 28, 2018



1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m. by Ms. Hamer. A quorum was present.

Members Present: Allegra Hamer, Chair; Jay Jackson; Michelle Sinnott; Tim Ebben; Mitzi Bolanos; Ashley Harmon; Cathy Foerster

Members Absent: Jennifer Spencer; Christine Roalofs, Vice Chair

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

2. **Minutes from the May 24, 2018 Meeting:**
Ms. Sinnott made a motion to approve the minutes. Motion was seconded by Ms. Foerster. 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

Ms. Atwood reported on Public Outreach for May 2018.

AACC has a lot of cats available for adoption; many of them are coming in as strays. The night drop kennels were full the morning of June 28th. This is the busiest time of the year for Animal Control Officers.

Media Requests:

- KTVA interview regarding a dog that had been at AACC on stray hold and was adopted out before the original owner was able to identify the dog and claim it. The interview reviewed the importance of having identification on animals, how to search for your lost animal, and the return to owner rates for dogs and cats.
- KTVA interview regarding a \$15 feline adoption event that was held at AACC.

Shelter Tours and School Presentations:

- Shelter Tour for 15 Camp Fire youths (4/16/2018).
- Shelter Tour for 9 Girl Scouts (5/2/2018).
- Shelter Tour for 20 students from Huffman Elementary (5/11/2018).

Facebook:

- Facebook followers – 12,940 as of 5/31/2018.
- 18% engagement rate.
- Top posts for this month featured:
 - Guess the breed: A photo was posted of a mixed breed dog who had been at the shelter as a stray and later claimed. The owners and AACC staff had identified this dog as two different breeds. Facebook followers gave their guesses on the breed (8 different breeds were guessed). This post stressed the importance of coming to the shelter in person to look for a lost animal as identifying a breed can be challenging.
 - Working with rescues: A post about a dog in need of medical assistance and AACC reached out to Alaska Bully Breed for rescue.
 - Staff: This post featured a case handled by Officer Jonsen regarding a lost epileptic dog who was reunited with the family by matching the dog with posts on social media.
- Mix 103.1 Radio Station contacted AACC and requested to start the pet of the week segment again. There is a 3 minute on airtime radio segment and then runs an additional 5-10 minutes on Facebook live. The segment is on Wednesdays at 8:25 a.m.
- The Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) received a “What Works Cities” grant. As part of the grant a Behavioral Insights Team and the MOA Public Information Officer met with AACC to work on effective messaging for license renewals.
- AACC will be in the 4th of July Parade in downtown Anchorage. AACC employees, volunteers, and adopters with friendly pets will be in attendance.

6. Committee Reports:

- a. Off-Leash Dog Area Committee – (Cathy Foerster)** – Mr. Ebben reported that the off-leash dog park committee in Eagle River held their first meeting. Two locations have been identified of interest for dog parks. The Peters Creek Park and a location on Firehouse Lane. Both are being proposed as fenced areas.
- b. Title 17 Review Committee – (Mitzi Bolanos)** – Received feedback from the Department of Law on the proposed revisions to Title 17, there were a couple clarifying questions to the proposed changes. The committee will meet on July 17 to review and make further revisions as necessary.

7. DHHS Staff Reports:

Michael Tierney, DHHS Administration – DHHS has a new Director, Natasha Pineda, her official start date is July 9th, 2018.

A meeting was held with the MOA Ombudsman, Deputy Ombudsman, Hearing Officer, AACC Manager, AACC Chief Enforcement Officer to discuss animal classifications. Especially in cases where the victim does not want Animal Control to take action but there was clear evidence a bite had taken place; whether or not Animal Control should classify the animal in these instances. It was discussed that Animal Control could request a subpoena for a reluctant witness through the hearing office if warranted. The Ombudsman's office may forward recommendations later.

AACC currently has two dogs in custody that are involved in cruelty cases. It is not unusual for animals to be held for a long period of time awaiting a trial. The State has a statute that requires a bond for the care and sheltering of animals in custody pending a cruelty case. The MOA is looking at instituting something similar in the MOA code.

8. Old Business: None.

9. New Business:

Animals at Alaska Zoo – Ms. Sinnott was contacted by a member of the public questioning why AACC does not provide welfare checks/enforcement services regarding domestic animals at the zoo. The member of the public had reported to AACC dispatch that the yaks at the Alaska Zoo have overgrown hooves but the caller was advised to contact the United States Department of Agriculture. Mr. Tierney will get further clarification and report back to ACAB on findings.

10. Informational Items:

- a. Next Regular Title 17 Meeting – July 16th at 12:00 p.m. 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, July 26, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the classroom at the Animal Care and Control Center located at 4711 Elmore Road.

11. Adjournment: Ms. Foerster made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Ms. Sinnott. With no objections the meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.