



Municipality of Anchorage
Animal Control Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
July 26, 2018



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; Christine Roalofs, Vice Chair; Jay Jackson; Michelle Sinnott; Mitzi Bolanos; Cathy Foerster
Jennifer Spencer

Members Absent: Ashley Harmon; Tim Ebben

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

2. **Minutes from the June 28, 2018 Meeting:**
Ms. Foerster made a motion to approve the minutes. Motion was seconded by Ms. Sinnott. The minutes were approved as written.

3. **Requested Presentations:** None.

4. **Persons to be Heard:** Vicki Young, Polar Pug Rescue – Formed a 501(c)(3) organization, Friends of Anchorage Animal Care and Control, to raise funds to help fund medical expenses for animals in need that are under the care of Animal Care and Control to aid in the animals adoptability. Requesting ACAB support and assistance to approach the Assembly to request donations that are made to Animal Care and Control be transferred to this account for funding medical/dental expenses. The purpose of this organization is to show a sustainability plan to ASPCA to help Animal Care and Control be eligible to receive future grant funding opportunities from the ASPCA. Mr. Tierney explained the process for appropriating donation money and will provide ACAB with reports regarding the balance of the donation account and average annual donations. He will contact Friends of the Library to inquire about their process for receiving funding.

5. **Standing Reports:**

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

Ms. Wilson reported on June 2018.

Total number of animals received year-to-date (YTD) during 2018 was 2,201 compared to 2,177 in 2017, intakes are down by 24 animals. Total of 164 cats received during June

2018 compared to 181 cats during June 2017. Total of 216 dogs received during June 2018 compared to 202 dogs during June 2017. The YTD 2018 claim rate was 49% and the adoption rate was 69%. Total number of dog licenses sold during June 2018 is 509. The total number of requests for service YTD 2018 was 2,541. There are 28 classifications YTD 2018. Total number of NOV's issued YTD was 549. Animal bites YTD 2018 is 289.

The number of intakes on cats are up, there are 70 cats in the shelter currently and 30 kittens in foster care. The message we need to get out to the public in order to assist with controlling the cat population is to spay/neuter your cats and don't let cats roam free. AACC has a lot of support from foster homes to foster the kittens until they can be adopted out. The situation is the same in the MatSu Valley, AACC received a call from MatSu shelter to inquire if AACC could help support them as they are at capacity for cats right now with approximately 150 cats in their shelter. The cat claim rate for June 2018 is 18% currently which is very good compared to national numbers [4%] and the cat adoption rate is at 56%.

More animals have been euthanized this year compared to last year, approximately 40 more, this was impacted by a case where they had 25 gerbils and were unable to adopt out all of them. The number of spay/neuter surgeries performed at AACC YTD is 242 compared to 185 in 2017. AACC has recruited new vet clinics that are going to donate spay/neuter surgeries. AACC is hoping to get some of the cats adopted out by reducing the cost of adoption with the donated surgeries.

Media Requests:

- KTUU & ADN completed interviews regarding the status of the dog from an Anchorage Police Department cruelty case. AACC confirmed that the dog was in their care and had been checked by Dr. Wilson, AACC Director.
- Fox completed an interview for Take Your Dog to Work day. They discussed why it's good to have a dog in your life, how many dogs have been adopted through AACC this year, and what is involved in the adoption process.
- Mix 103.1 – Wednesday weekly at 8:30 a.m. included both air time and Facebook Live.
 - 6/6/18 – Brought an adoptable cat and promoted the \$15 Felines event.
 - 6/13/18 – Laura Atwood brought her dog, Whisper, to talk about how to be safe around dogs and demonstrate how to greet dogs safely.
 - 6/20/18 – Brought two adoptable kittens, talked about how many litters of kittens were available at the shelter and the importance of spay and neuter. We brought the kittens to see the DJ's on KWHL and they were so excited that they had me [Laura] go on air with them also.
 - 6/27/18 – Brought an adoptable rabbit and talked about keeping pets safe during the upcoming 4th of July holiday.

Shelter Tours and School Presentations:

- Shelter Tour for 15 youths from Loussac Campfire.

Facebook:

- Facebook followers – 13,129 as of 6/30/18.
- 18% engagement rate.
- Top posts for this month featured:
 - Post regarding open positions with the link to online application.
 - Post shared from the Denali Universal Services recognizing our employee, Katelyn Stowe, for five years of service.
 - Facebook live post from Mix 103.1 demonstrating how to greet a dog safely.
- DHHS Newsletter – Submitted article about how to get cats outside safely and legally. The article discussed catios, backpacks, and harness/leash training.

6. Committee Reports:

- a. **Off-Leash Dog Area Committee – (Cathy Foerster)** – The Whisper Faith Kovach off-leash dog park is now open with separate areas for small and large dogs. The signs with the rules are scheduled to be installed soon. The small dog area at the South Anchorage Dog Park will be closed during August 2018 for some landscaping work, planning to put down some additional top soil and grass seed in the area.
- b. **Title 17 Review Committee – (Mitzi Bolanos)** – Ms. Bolanos presented the revisions to Title 17 based on recommendations from the MOA Legal Department. Mr. Tierney will begin advertising for a public comment period so the public has the opportunity to give feedback on the revisions. An open public comment session will be held on September 27th at the regular ACAB meeting.

7. DHHS Staff Reports:

Michael Tierney, DHHS Administration – The new DHHS building project has been delayed until 2020. The project is moving forward. DHHS is reviewing the delegation of duties from the DHHS Director to Dr. Wilson for any necessary changes or updates.

8. Old Business: None.

9. New Business: None.

10. Informational Items:

- a. Next Regular Title 17 Meeting – TBD.
- b. Next Regular Meeting – The next regular board meeting will be held Thursday, August 23, 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. Roalofs. With no objections the meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.