



Municipality of Anchorage
Animal Control Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
July 27, 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; Christine Roalofs, Vice Chair; Cathy Foerster, Jennifer Spencer; Sandy Traini; Jay Jackson

Members Absent: Kari Campbell

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 May 25, 2017 Meeting:** Ms. Traini made a motion to approve the minutes. Motioned seconded by Ms. Roalofs. 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 May 2017.

During the month of May 2017, AACC took in 47 more animals than during May 2016; 438 animals during May 2017 compared to 391 during May 2016. Total number of animals received year-to-date during 2017 has increased from 2016, 1,734 total animals in 2017, compared to 1,644 during 2016. Feral cats received year-to-date in 2017 was 4 compared to 34 during 2016. AACC performed more spay and neuter surgeries this year; 150 surgeries during 2017 compared to 124 during 2016. The number of Notice of Violations (NOVs) issued in 2017 is up from 2016, 411 NOVs during 2017 compared to 396 during 2016. The number of animal bites reported year-to-date in 2017 increased compared to 2016; 255 bites reported in 2017 compared to 214 during 2016. The total number of requests for service during May 2017 has decreased compared to May 2016; 575 requests during May 2017 compared to 609 during May 2017. The number of calls received during May 2017 regarding loose animals has decreased compared to May 2016; 117 calls during May 2017 compared to 141 during May 2016. The number of calls

received for animal welfare checks was 99 during May 2017 compared to 136 during June 2017. Year-to-date the total number of requests for service received during 2017 has decreased; 2,162 calls received during 2017 compared to 2,205 during 2016.

Dr. Myra Wilson reported on June 2017.

During the month of June 2017 AACC took in 85 more animals than during June 2016. They took in 443 animals during June 2017 compared to 358 during June 2016. Total number of animals received year-to-date in 2017 has increased; received 2,177 total animals during 2017, compared to 2,002 during 2016. The majority of these animals came in as owner surrenders, not strays. Claim and adoptions rates are holding steady. The total number of licenses sold year-to-date during 2017 has increased by approximately 100 licenses compared to 2016. AACC performed 35 spay and neuter surgeries during June 2017, year-to-date they have performed 185 surgeries during 2017. The number of classified animals year-to-date has increased during 2017 compared to 2016; 30 animals classified during 2017 compared to 10 last year. The number of animal bites reported year-to-date during 2017 increased compared to 2016; 329 bites reported during 2017 compared to 291 during 2016. The total number of requests for service during June 2017 has decreased compared to June 2016; 510 requests for service during June 2017 compared to 665 during June 2016. The number of calls received during June 2017 regarding loose animals has decreased compared to June 2016; 86 calls during June 2017 compared to 140 during June 2016. The number of calls received for animal welfare checks was 99 during June 2017 compared to 128 during June 2016. Year-to-date the total number of requests for service received during 2017 was 2,672 calls received.

Laura Atwood reported on May & June activity.

Media requests:

- KTUU completed an interview regarding the types and numbers of exotics that AACC takes in and adopts out. This was a follow-up to their story about the loose python in the valley.
- KTUU ran a final story on the “dumpster” puppies, and interviewed several of the adopters.
- Fox News completed an interview regarding the dangers of leaving dogs in hot cars and the increase in loose animals coming into the shelter in the summer.
- Alaska Dispatch ran a column on sled dogs in comparison to the average pet dog. Reporter was interested in AACC intakes / outcomes numbers on dogs in general.
- KTVA ran a story on Adopt-a-Shelter Cat Month, featuring several of the adoptable cats at AACC.
- Your Alaska Link completed an interview on how to keep dogs safe during the 4th of July holiday and what to do if your dog gets loose.

AACC participated in the following outreach activity:

- Staffed a table at the Reading Rendezvous held at the Loussac Library. This was a children's event, covered information about bite prevention. This was a literary event, they asked kids to describe in one word how animals make them feel, the words were put into a word cloud which was shared on Facebook. Most popular word was "Happy".
- May and June Monthly pet supply and giveaway at AACC.

Shelter Tours & School Visits during May & June:

- Russian Jack Elementary school visit, talked about bite prevention and safe behavior around dogs to ten 5th grade students. The students did a shelter tour at AACC a few days later.
- Bright Horizons Daycare school visit, talked about bite prevention and safe behavior around dogs to twenty 4 & 5 year olds.

6. Committee Reports:

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

- Whisper Faith Kovach Park: No updates.
- University Lake Park: No updates.
- South Anchorage Sports Park: Project is moving forward to build a ¾ acre fenced area for dogs. Stephen Rafuse, Park Planner, would like to see in the future an area of the acre or more that could be divided into areas for large and small dogs.
- Valley of the Moon Park: Will be closed for construction, currently waiting for MLP to remove a guywire. Will be constructing an ADA accessible pathway to new dog park area in conjunction with an additional 28 parking spaces. Adding new entrance gates and fencing. There is currently signage informing park users of pending closures and upcoming improvements. When ground is broken, there will be notification via social media (NextDoor and FaceBook).
- Arctic Benson Park: Park was closed for grass reseeding and reopened on schedule, July 10th. Installed pathway and gravel to improve accessibility and improved drainage. Used small granite gravel to help with smell. There has been some complaints the gravel is spreading too quickly and being picked up with dog waste. Hoping the gravel settles.
- Anchorage Unleashed: Organization has completed their mission and have disbanded, their website will remain up for 1 year.

b. Title 17 Review Committee – (Michael Tierney)

The Title 17 committee has been working on changes to Title 17 in regards to care and sanitation with a focus on the rescue and foster groups. The draft revision has been sent to Dr. Myra Wilson for review and the plan is to present to ACAB at the next regular meeting. There was some discussion regarding possible changing the date/time of the future reoccurring Title 17 meetings, no decisions made at this time.

c. Nominating Committee – (Jennifer Spencer)

Allegra Hamer & Christine Roalofs both offered to continue serving in their respective roles as Chair and Vice Chair to ACAB. There were no other nominations. Ms. Foerster made a motion to approve Allegra Hamer as Chair and Christine Roalofs as Vice-Chair, seconded by Ms. Traini. Motion passed unanimously.

7. DHHS Staff Reports:

Michael Tierney, DHHS Administration – Received a new application for ACAB Member, Mitzi Bolanos, the application has been sent to the Mayor for approval. DHHS is looking at a budget cut for the 2018 budget year. This cut will affect DHHS and associated contracts to include AACC. This can be expected to impact the services. There is a formal budget process, DHHS will submit their proposal to the Administration and the Mayor will submit the budget to the Assembly on October 10th. Public hearings scheduled for October 24th and November 7th.

8. New Business: None.

9. Informational Items:

- a. Next Regular Meeting – The next regular board meeting will be held Thursday, August 24, 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, August 17, 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. Foerester. With no objections the meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.