

AO 2026-26: Amendments to Anchorage Municipal Code (AMC) Chapters 8.55 and 17

February 27, 2026



Agenda & Presenters

Agenda

- Background
- Summary of Changes to AMC Chapter 8.55—Animal Neglect
- Summary of Changes to AMC Chapter 17—Animals
- Impact of Proposed Changes

Presented by Tamiah Liebersbach, Administration Manager

Background

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- AR 2024-379
 - Called for a review of animal cruelty and neglect laws and recommendations for updates.
- AHD requested review and recommendations from:
 - The Animal Control Advisory Board (ACAB)
 - A working group of representatives from AHD, APD, the Department of Law, and the Municipal Prosecutor's Office

Background

- ACAB and the Working Group drafted changes that were combined and posted for public comment.
- ACAB then made updates based on public comment and voted to send the proposed changes to the Assembly.



 **Public Comment Opportunity**

The **Animal Control Advisory Board (ACAB)** is proposing changes to **Titles 8 and 17** regarding **cruelty and neglect of animals** in the Municipality of Anchorage.

Provide comments via:

 Email  Phone

 In-person

Extended! **Comment Deadline: October 24, 2025**

Summary of Changes to AMC Chapter 8.55—Animal Neglect

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- Align definitions to those in AMC Chapter 17.
- Add specific conditions under which keeping an animal in a vehicle would be neglect.
- Make certain violations of AMC Chapter 17 an automatic animal neglect charge after 3 or more violations in 10 years.

**Note: AMC 8.55 is enforced by APD, not Anchorage Animal Care and Control (AACCC).



Summary of Changes to AMC Chapter 17—Animals

Summary of Changes to AMC

Chapter 17—Animals

- Update the definition of humane care to detail what adequate space means.
- Add a section on animals in vehicles that makes leaving an animal unattended inside a vehicle for over 8 consecutive hours a violation.
- Add a provision that allows AACCC to petition for a cost of care bond for animals in protective custody related to neglect or cruelty charges.



Impact of Proposed Changes

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- Better define adequate standards of care for animals.
- Provide more concrete guidance to both Animal Control Officers and APD Officers for enforcement.
- Escalate consequences for repeat offenders of certain violations.
- Defray the oftentimes substantial costs incurred by AACCC to care for animals in protective custody because their owner is charged with cruelty or neglect.



Questions?



Thank you!



**Anchorage
Health
Department**

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