



Municipality of Anchorage
Animal Control Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
October 23, 2025



1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Raylene Griffith.

Board Members Present:

Raylene Griffith, Matt Hall, Tim Ebben, Samantha Fierro, Sandy Potter and Pam Schamber

Board Members Absent:

None

Staff Present:

Valarie Clark and Debbie Burks – Anchorage Health Department (AHD)

Melissa Summerfield, Logan Robinson and Joel Jorgensen – Animal Licensing and Placement Services (ALPS).

2. **Minutes from September 25, 2025:**

Matt Hall moved to approve the minutes. Sandy Potter seconded. Motion carried.

3. **Requested Presentations:**

None

4. **Committee Reports** : Change in order of the day.

Matt Hall made motion to move Title 17 Reporting to after New Business as a segue into meeting topics for the meeting.

Matt Hall motioned, and Sandy Potter seconded. Motion carried.

5. **Standing Reports:**

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

Melissa Summerfield Shelter Manager

- Shelter intake numbers are beginning to decrease as summer winds down; however, efforts to place animals into permanent homes remain active.
- Recent West Coast storms have not affected shelter operations, and all services are continuing as normal. Staff are prioritizing and increasing community outreach.
- Melissa has been working at the MOA Emergency Operations Center for the West Coast disaster efforts.

Joel Jorgensen and Logan Robinson

- Shelter Operations ran smoothly last month with no major issues; the recent West Coast disaster has strengthened collaboration among Alaska rescue groups.
- The crisis created new connections with smaller rescues across the state, expanding long-

term partnership opportunities for AACC.

- Community support has surged, resulting in an overflow of donated supplies and the need for additional storage space.
- Public response reflects Alaska’s strong cultural value of animals as family members.
- Recent outreach events have gone well, and all animals involved were adopted.
- The Tails on Trails program saw over 240 dogs participate during summer, helping reduce kennel stress and improve adoptability.
- Best Friends Animal Society is providing major operational support, including volunteers, resources, large dog runs, and stipends for rescues and fosters to take up to 18 AACC animals.
- The disaster response workflow routes incoming dogs through AACC for initial intake, medical observation, and coordinated transfer to approximately 60 rescues.
- A centralized system tracks all animals by ID number to help reunite displaced pets with owners quickly, including coordination with multiple rescue organizations across Alaska.
- Public-facing binders and online listings with photos and ID numbers are being created to help owners identify lost pets.
- Recent activity includes AACC receiving 10 dogs on Monday for transport to Mat-Su Animal Shelter and another nine that have already gone through foster placement; overall, roughly 146 dogs have been assigned ID numbers and tracked during this event.

6. AHD Staff Reports:

Valarie Clark

- Tamiah is scheduled to return to the office in November
- The proposed 2026 budget from the administration does **not** include the additional funding requested for the shelter contract, such as funding for 24-hour staffing.
- The shelter contract will move forward but without the expanded services unless the Assembly adds funds during budget approval.
- AHD is not included in the main emergency operations information flow; staff only receive limited updates, which will be shared as they come in.
- The regular November meeting falls on Thanksgiving this year, so it will occur on December 4 instead.
- This likely results in only one meeting between November and December, with the next meeting expected in January.
- Committee members confirmed availability for December 4.

7. Old Business

None

8. New Business

- Committee would like to acknowledge Cathy Foerster for her many years of service as her term has ended.

9. **Committee Reports :**

Title 17 - Sgt. Matthew Hall

- The Title 17 Committee reviewed the draft AO and proposed revisions based on public and written testimony.
- A major recommended change is reducing the “animals in vehicles” time limit from **12 hours to 8 hours**.
- Additional clarification will be added to ensure the animals-in-vehicles rule does **not override neglect standards**; short-term confinement under dangerous conditions would still qualify as neglect.
- The committee discussed updates to bonding requirements for **multi-animal facility seizures**, including allowing a hearing officer to approve third-party care at the original facility if the site passes inspection and the owner is restricted from the location.
- Language around these provisions is still being refined for clarity.
- A vote will be delayed until after further review and revisions, with potential reopening for public comment.
- Final changes will likely be reviewed at the next Title 17 Committee meeting, with a board vote planned for the following board meeting.

10. **Persons to be Heard on Meeting Topics:**

No persons to be heard on changes to Titles 8 and 17

11. **Informational Items:**

- a. The next Title 17 Review Committee will be held Thursday, November 13, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at Anchorage Animal Care and Control.
- b. Due to holiday, the next Animal Control Advisory Board meeting will be held Thursday, December 4, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at Anchorage Animal Care and Control or call-in to 907-343-6060

12. **Adjournment:** Matt Hall moved to adjourn; Raylene Griffith seconded. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 6:59 P.M.