



Municipality of Anchorage
Animal Control Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
February 27, 2025



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

Members Present:

Pamela Schamber, Matthew Hall, Cathy Foerster, Sandy Potter, Raylene Griffith, Samantha Fierro.

Members Absent:

Timothy Ebben

Staff Present:

Tamiah Liebersbach, Debbie Burks - AHD

Melissa Summerfield, Eric Jonsen and Joel Jorgensen - ALPS.

2. **Minutes from January 23, 2025:**

Minutes reviewed, request to remove bold print in identified words, approved with corrections.

3. **Requested Presentations:**

None.

4. **Persons to be Heard:**

None.

5. **Standing Reports:**

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

Melissa Summerfield Report -

Animal Intake:

- The new year started with a steady intake of animals.
- Shelter staff have successfully managed the population and maintained capacity levels so far this year and the team has been commended for their efforts.

Night Drop Kennel Challenges:

- The after-hours night drop kennels continue to present challenges.
- During the first few weeks of January, 7 to 10 dogs were mistakenly placed in kennels designated for cats and small animals. One dog had a serious medical condition that could have worsened due to being placed in the wrong kennel.

Corrective Actions:

- Additional signage has been installed to clearly label kennels as Dog Only or Small Animal Only (cats, rabbits, etc.).
- Overnight staffing is not an option currently.

Summary: Misplacement of animals in the night drop kennels continues despite added signage. The shelter is increasing public outreach to remind the community that if the correct kennel is locked, animals should not be placed in the wrong kennel and should be held until the shelter reopens. Owner surrenders do not normally happen overnight with other arrangements made. Will continue to look for better solutions that work for the community, shelter, and the animals.

**Joel Jorgensen Report -
Food Pantry & Donations:**

- In January, the shelter set a record by serving over 400 households through the community food pantry.
- Recent donations totaled approximately 1,000 pounds of food in December and January.
- Additional outreach was provided by a community member who distributed over 300 bags of food to those unable to visit the shelter.
- Programs continue to help prevent owner surrenders by supporting pet owners during tough times.
- Food donations remain strong from Alaska Mill and Feed, Petco, Normandy Project, and community members. Normandy Project and other partners help distribute food; shelter also supports local food banks and Catholic Social Services when possible.
- The shelter is maintaining a steady supply of pet food and supplies through the continued generosity of the community and business supporters.
- While Hill's Science Diet is used for animals being housed in the shelter, other brands are distributed to the public.

Outreach and Partnerships:

- Three volunteer orientations held in February; 15 new volunteers trained.
- Partnership with Alaska Rock Gym launched for adoption events and volunteer recruitment.
- Tales for Trails program launching around March 15th to give long-stay dogs outdoor time, including hikes and possible overnight outings.
- Volunteers staffing outreach booths at Loussac Library, Mountain View Library, and other locations to promote programs and educate the public.
- Ongoing outreach aims to reduce shelter intake by raising awareness of available services and support programs.

6. Committee Reports:

Title 17 - Sgt. Matthew Hall Report:

- The committee continues reviewing assembly items and definitions related to Title 17.
- Current focus is on space requirements for animal confinement, specifically in vehicles.
- The group is working to determine what constitutes adequate space for confinement.
- Further discussion will take place at the next meeting; suggestions or ideas can be sent to Sgt. Hall for consideration.

7. AHD Staff Reports:

Tamiah Liebersbach - Report:

Board Openings

- Two seats remain open on board, with one candidate currently being considered.
- The board could benefit with new members with a legal or veterinary perspective. Tamiah is available to assist anyone interested in applying.

Project Updates:

- A walkthrough with Maintenance & Operations, Capital Projects, and an architect was completed to begin blueprint designs for building improvements or expansion.
- Plans include necessary facility upgrades and exploring options to expand the building and double kennel space on the current site.
- Expansion options being considered include adding a second story for administrative functions or physically expanding the footprint.
- Quarter 1 budget revision requests are being prepared for submission to the Assembly in April.
- Requests include \$100,000 for blueprint and design work, with potential additional costs depending on expansion options, as well as funding for a professional community needs assessment by an experienced firm.
- The incident review of the vehicle fire has begun and is being conducted by the Office of Internal Audit, as approved by the Assembly.

8. Old Business

None

9. New Business

None

10. Persons to be Heard on Meeting Topics:

None.

11. Informational Items:

- a. The next Title 17 Review Committee meeting will be held Thursday, March 13, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at Anchorage Animal Care and Control.
- b. The next Animal Control Advisory Board meeting will be held Thursday, March 27, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at Anchorage Animal Care and Control.

12. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 6:35 p.m.