



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



1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:58 p.m. by Pamela Chamber.

Members Present:

Pamela Chamber, Matthew Hall, Timothy Ebben, Sandy Potter, Samantha Fierro.

Members Absent:

Cathy Foerster, Raylene Griffith

Staff Present:

Tamiah Liebersbach, Debbie Burks - AHD

Melissa Summerfield, Eric Jonsen, Joel Jorgensen and Logan Robinson - ALPS.

Visitors:

Hanna Anderson, Municipal Prosecutors Office

David Morgan, Rogers Park Community Council

2. **Minutes from February 27, 2025:**

Minutes reviewed, motion to approve by Matthew Hall, seconded by Sandy Potter, motion passed unanimously.

3. **Requested Presentations:**

None.

4. **Persons to be Heard:**

David Morgan, Chairman of the Rogers Park Community Council Crime and Safety Committee.

- Letter from David Morgan (March 27, 2025): A written letter accompanied by photos was submitted by David Morgan for ACAB review.

Verbal Presentation by David Morgan:

David Morgan, Chair of the Roger Clark Council and former Rogers Park Community Council President, presented concerns regarding off-leash dogs in Carlson Park. He described repeated incidents of uncontrolled dogs attacking other dogs, harassing children, and alarming residents. Despite community members calling Animal Control at least 11 times, they were often told no staff was available. Mr. Morgan shared photographic evidence and described neighborhood efforts to monitor the park using security cameras. He urged the Board to explore ways to

improve enforcement of leash laws, noting that while trained, voice-command dogs may be exempt, the majority of incidents involve untrained dogs with uncooperative owners. He emphasized the community's willingness to collaborate and hopes for proactive measures to prevent serious harm.

- **ACAB Feedback and Animal Control Staff Response:**

The Board explained past attempts to strengthen leash laws under Title 17, which were ultimately rejected by the Assembly despite public support. Animal Control staff emphasized that enforcement is limited without known addresses or ownership information. When provided, officers can issue a Notice to Comply and escalate to citations for repeated violations, including failure to pick up dog waste. Residents are encouraged to submit reports with specific addresses and photo/video evidence to acdispatch@anchorageak.gov.

5. Standing Reports:

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

Melissa Summerfield Updates -

- Preparing for busy summer season with increased intake.
- Working through owner surrender waitlist.
- Frequent off-site adoption events to reduce in-house population.
- Cooler failure caused temporary disruption; backup outside 20ft refrigerated container setup in place.
- Still short-staffed; open enforcement officer hire pending.
- Staff continuing to respond to calls and adjust as needed

Joel Jorgensen Updates -

Outreach & Program:

- Record Month for Food Pantry: Served 431 households in February—highest recorded; also provides food via a volunteer supporting homeless camps.
- Increased Donations: New support from small businesses, Wasilla donors, and the commissary on base (three pallets of dog food).
- Regional Shelter Coordination: Partnered with Kenai Animal Shelter to transfer a difficult protective custody case; open to future collaborations.
- Summer Preparedness: Expecting higher intake; concerned about kennel stress and volunteer capacity.
- New Program – *Tails on Trails*: Allows public to “check out” dogs for 48-hour outdoor adventures (hiking, camping) to reduce stress and increase adoptability.

- Launch Event: First community promotion scheduled at Alaska Rock Gym; goal is 100 community participants to supplement regular volunteer efforts.

Logan Robison Updates -

Outreach & Program Continued:

- Provided an update on the *Tails on Trails* program, which now includes the “Meet Your Match” assessment to improve adoption outcomes and reduce returns.
- Plans are underway to support participants with basic training on dog handling and behavior expectations. This may include in-person guidance and potentially an online training video.
- Staff will monitor participants for safe, humane handling practices and reserve the right to remove individuals who do not follow the program’s behavioral guidelines.
- Reported on the transfer of a dog to another shelter for safety and welfare reasons. The animal had been involved in a challenging situation prior to intake, and the relocation ensured a more secure outcome.

6. Committee Reports:

Title 17 - Sgt. Matthew Hall Report:

- Provided an update on proposed revisions to Title 8 (Animal Neglect) and Title 17 (Animal Care & Control).
- Title 8 updates include clearer definitions of neglect (e.g., extreme heat/cold, lack of ventilation) and alignment with existing Title 17 language for consistency and public clarity.
- Proposed granting Animal Control Officers the authority to remove animals from vehicles in distress, pending legal review due to their contractor status.
- Introduced a new Title 17 provision prohibiting animals from being left unattended in vehicles for more than 12 hours, with exceptions for welfare checks, exercise, and temporary removals.
- Updated the definition of “Humane Care and Treatment” to clarify what constitutes appropriate confinement space.
- Emphasized the importance of tailoring language to Alaskan realities (e.g., mushing) while aligning with national standards.

Animal Cruelty & Neglect Review Working Group

Input provided by Tamiah Liebersbach and Matthew Hall

- A multi-agency working group has been established as part of the response to Assembly Resolution 2024-379, including representatives from APD, the Health Department, Legal Department, and Prosecutor’s Office.
- The group will conduct a comprehensive review of cruelty and neglect laws, addressing gaps in enforcement, officer training, and prosecution challenges.

- The first meeting is scheduled for next week. Hannah Anderson, the designated representative from the Prosecutor’s Office, will attend the board meeting to observe and gain context.

Board Voted:

- A motion was made and unanimously approved to adopt the current draft revisions to Title 8 (Animal Neglect), Title 17 (Animals in Vehicles), and updated definitions—including proposed enforcement authority and time limits—as a working document to be submitted to the Animal Cruelty & Neglect Review Working Group for further review and feedback.

7. AHD Staff Reports:

Tamiah Liebersbach - Report:

- The Assembly-required report in response to Resolution 2024-379 is expected to appear on the April 8th agenda. Once confirmed, it will be shared with the Board. The report outlines current efforts and future plans, including code updates and capital improvements.
- Two Board vacancies remain open; no new applications have been received.
- Cooler replacement costs are estimated at \$20,000–\$30,000, with funding expected to come from Health Department vacancy savings.
- A Request for Proposal (RFP) for the next five-year Animal Care & Control contract (starting in 2026) is being developed. Input is being gathered from rescue partners to expand services based on community needs.
- The RFP is expected to be released in May 2025. An evaluation committee will be formed to score proposals and make a recommendation; at least three members (odd-numbered group) are needed, including Board members and possibly community partners.

8. Old Business

None

9. New Business

Board Elections:

- Two Board members were absent, but the group agreed to proceed with elections based on prior discussions and nominations.
- Per operating procedures, elections typically occur in March; however, a vote can be held later or postponed by motion.

- **Chair Position:**

- Raylene Griffith - nominated based on prior confirmation of her willingness to serve.
- Responsibilities include chairing meetings, assisting with agenda planning, and supporting board communications.

- **Vice Chair Position:**
 - Matthew Hall - nominated to continue serving in the role.
 - Responsibilities include filling in for the Chair as needed and traditionally leading the Title 17 Committee.
- No additional nominations were received.
- **Voting Results** (voice vote):
 - **Raylene Griffith elected as Chair** – Unanimous approval.
 - **Matthew Hall elected as Vice Chair** – Unanimous approval.

10. Persons to be Heard on Meeting Topics:

None.

11. Informational Items:

- a. The next Title 17 Review Committee meeting will be held Thursday, April 10, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at Anchorage Animal Care and Control.
- b. The next Animal Control Advisory Board meeting will be held Thursday, April 24, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at Anchorage Animal Care and Control.

12. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 7:00 p.m.