



Municipality of Anchorage
Animal Control Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
July 24, 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, Cathy Foerster and Sandy Potter

Board Members Excused Absent:

Pam Schamber

Staff Present:

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

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

2. **Minutes from June 26, 2025:**

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

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 Updates -
Shelter Manager**

- Intake numbers remain high; more animals coming in than going out.
- Staff are holding steady despite strain; morale and motivation are a key focus.
- Collaborating with APD on abatement efforts; APD assisting in hoarding cases and warrant support.
- **Enforcement Update:** Heavy call season; priority given to bites, aggressive animals, and injured animals. Three new ACOs in training — once trained, department will be fully staffed, and response capacity will improve.

**Joel Jorgensen Updates -
Outreach & Program:**

- Animal Control assisted during recent abatements to address animals within the unhoused population, while continuing to focus on maintaining a positive community role.
- Approximately 380 households supported last month; on track to reach about 500 this month, in addition to thousands of pounds of food distributed through partner groups.
- New partnership with Alaska Department of Labor's vocational rehabilitation program. Participants contribute about 20 volunteer hours per week, adding support at no cost to the shelter.
- Ongoing collaboration with shelters statewide, including a recent transfer of a protective custody dog to shelter outside of Anchorage to ensure safety.
- Monitoring impacts from Mat-Su shelter closures. While calls have increased, no major influx of animals to Anchorage has occurred. Policy remains that owner surrenders from outside the Municipality are not accepted, except for urgent medical or public safety cases.
- Shelter intake covers the full Municipality of Anchorage, from Eklutna to Girdwood.

6. Committee Reports:

Title 17 - Sgt. Matthew Hall Report:

- Work continues with the Municipal Attorney's Office, with progress made on their review of proposed changes.
- An edited version of Title 17, reflecting attorney input, should be compiled and presented at the next meeting.
- Following review by the Advisory Board, the updated draft will return to the full board for feedback and potential revisions.
- A work session with the Assembly is recommended to gather input prior to submitting a final version for consideration.

7. AHD Staff Reports:

Valarie Clark:

- Introduction – Valarie Clark, AHD Grants & Contracts Acting Supervisor
 - Filling in for Tamiah Liebersbach on the Grants and Contracts team. Val has worked with the Municipality of Anchorage for five years. Prior to her municipal role, she spent about 25 years in the nonprofit sector in Anchorage, with experience in grants and contracts, program oversight, office management, and human resources.
- Assembly has approved the \$2,000 grant from Best Friends Animal Society and a second grant of \$10,000.00. More details forthcoming on authorized uses.
- **RFP Process** – Only one proposal was submitted; however, the full evaluation process must still be completed. Purchasing has implemented new confidentiality requirements that must be applied before the proposal can be sent to the evaluation committee. The process remains on schedule for next month.

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 will be held August 14, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at Anchorage Animal Care and Control.
- b. The next Animal Control Advisory Board meeting will be held Thursday, August 28, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at Anchorage Animal Care and Control or call-in to 907-343-6060

12. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 6:19 p.m.