



Municipality of Anchorage  
**Animal Control Advisory Board**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**February 24, 2022**



1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. by Ms. Hamer. A quorum was present.

**Members Present:** Allegra Hamer, Chair; Sandy Potter; Pamela Schamber, Debbie Sis, Jessie Janowski, Timothy Ebben, Rachelle Alger, Cathy Foerster

**Members Absent:**

**Staff Present:** Kimberly Rash, AHD; Tamiah Liebersbach, AHD; Nicholas Ullery, AHD; Laura Holman, ALPS; Melissa Winn, ALPS.

2. **Minutes from December 9, 2021, and January 27, 2022, Meeting:**

January Minutes

Mr. Ebben moved to approve the minutes, seconded. Ms. Potter moved to allow additional time to review the January minutes prior to approval, seconded. Minutes to be approved at March meeting.

December Minutes

December minutes reviewed and now reflect Ms. Potter's changes (see January minutes) and are now finalized and approved.

3. **Requested Presentations:**

None.

4. **Persons to be Heard:**

Administrative Division Manager Kimberly Rash introduced herself and her role at the Anchorage Health Department.

5. **Standing Reports:**

**Anchorage Animal Care and Control (AACC) Monthly Report and Public Outreach**

Ms. Winn and Ms. Holman summarized the highlights of the December 2021 and January 2022 Anchorage Animal Care and Control Monthly Reports.

## **7. Committee Reports:**

### **a. Off-Leash Dog Area Committee – (Cathy Foerster)**

Ms. Foerster reported that Klatt off-leash dog park has a gap in its fence, which currently is not an issue because of snow but needs to be addressed before spring. At present, Parks has still not dedicated a point person to respond to Animal Care and Control about off-leash dog parks. Ms. Liebersbach will follow up and Ms. Alger also offered assistance.

Ms. Potter reported a citizen comment about the Whisper Faith Dog Park (Lore Road) – safe for both owners and dogs, with adequate parking and good design.

### **b. Title 17 Review Committee – (Allegra Hamer)**

Ms. Hamer reported that the Title 17 review committee met on February 10 and began discussion of the bonding provision for animals held under protective custody for owners charged under Title 8, which had been last brought before the committee in 2019. Committee members present were Ms. Anderson, Ms. Sinnott, Ms. Schamber, Ms. Potter, Ms. Janowski, Mr. Ebben, and Ms. Hamer. AACC technical advisors present were Ms. Winn and Captain Tim.

Past recommendation on this provision by the Committee focused on requiring owners to pay monthly rather than waiting for the disposition of the cruelty case; the latter could create a substantial financial burden which could not be paid. This recommendation follows similar Alaska state law. In 2019, members of the Assembly working group expressed concerns that the provision could be considered punitive and referred it to their legal department. No action has been taken since.

The Title 17 Committee now plans to review past cruelty cases and look for models in other jurisdictions, review its initial recommendations, and bring this back before the Assembly.

Ms. Schamber has agreed to assume Chair of the Title 17 Review Committee.

### **c. Spay Neuter Working Group (Allegra Hamer)**

Ms. Hamer reported that it appears most dogs and cats are now being spayed/neutered by the AACC veterinarian before adoption. Although the problem of adopted animals not being spayed/neutered as required in the adoption agreement may have been more pronounced in the past, the future may be less of a concern. This Committee could consider disbanding after reviewing the records.

**8. AHD Staff Reports:**

Ms. Liebersbach welcomed Kim Rash, AHD Administration manager, and Rachelle Alger, new ACAB board member.

Ms. Liebersbach reported elections will be held at the March ACAB meeting, per working procedures. Nominations for the Chair and Vice Chair should be directed to her.

Ms. Liebersbach reported that she, Ms. Winn, and Dr. Hedges met with the team from the ASPCA Northern Tier shelter initiative, which contacted AACC about re-establishing a relationship. Their past support included a grant for the AACC spay and neuter equipment upgrades. The Northern Tier supports the northwest Pacific and Alaska shelters to share best practices and provide funding. The meeting topics included needs of AACC and the community.

**Old Business:** None.

**9. New Business:**

Current ACAB members introduced themselves and their reasons for joining ACAB and Ms. Rash and Ms. Alger did the same.

**10. Persons to be Heard on Meeting Topics:** None

**11. Informational Items:**

a. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Title 17 Review Committee will be March 10, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. via Microsoft Teams

b. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Animal Control Advisory Board is March 24, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. via Microsoft Teams.

**13. Adjournment:** Ms. Potter motioned to adjourn, seconded. Meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.