



Municipality of Anchorage
Animal Control Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
August 25, 2022



1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m. by Ms. Hamer. A quorum was present.

Members Present Allegra Hamer, Chair; Pamela Schamber, Vice Chair, Debbie Sis, Sandy Potter, Tim Ebben, Rachelle Alger

Members Absent: Cathy Foerster, Jessie Janowski

Staff Present: Tamiah Liebersbach, AHD; Nicholas Ullery, AHD; Melissa Ruid, ALPS; Patricia Vannatter, ALPS.

2. **Minutes from July 28, 2022, Meeting:**

July Minutes

Ms. Schamber motioned to approve July's minutes; the motion was seconded by Ms. Sis. Minutes were approved unanimously

3. **Requested Presentations:**

None.

4. **Persons to be Heard:**

None.

5. **Standing Reports:**

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

Director Ruid summarized the highlights of the July 2022 Anchorage Animal Care and Control Monthly Report.

Ms. Vannatter summarized the highlights of July's Public Outreach report as well as volunteer hours.

6. **Committee Reports:**

a. Title 17 Review Committee – (Pam Schamber)

Ms. Schamber reported

The Title 17 Committee followed up with Captain Hoopingarner, who covered some terms that they are having trouble with.

Title 17 also talked about working on terminology that would make it more clear for enforcement.

Reviewed what is legal and what is not legal.

Biking with dogs off leash seems to be the biggest issue for title 17.

c. Spay Neuter Working Group (Allegra Hamer)

Ms. Hamer reported

She has no updates currently.

7. AHD Staff Reports:

Ms. Liebersbach reported

The ongoing search for the 9th member of the ACAB.

The budget request for Animal Control has been pushed forward.

8. Old Business: None.

9. New Business: None.

10. Persons to be Heard on Meeting Topics: Frank Lahr.

“Hello, my name is Frank Lahr.

I’m a frequent trail user in the MOA, especially in the Far North Bicentennial Park and Kincaid Park. After listening to the August 11th Title 17 meeting, I’d like to speak about the movement to allow e-collars on dogs in the MOA.

I don’t understand how you control a dog using an e-collar as you are biking down a singletrack trail. There is a remote switch you need to operate AND where are you keeping it, in a pocket, strapped to your body or the bike? I understand riding singletrack trails as I ride a lot of them in all seasons. A dog owner using an e-collar will be bouncing along on a rough trail and likely have to come to a stop or at least slow down to get a hold of the remote. This is going to take time depending on the trail slope and difficulty. I think your board should consider all other trail

users before you simply allow anyone with an e-collar to let their dog loose on public trails. In the industry I worked in we had a saying- 'Safety First' and I believe in this situation it applies to both trail users and pets. Why give the right to use an e-collar to dog owners who feel they can't walk, bike, ski or run with their dog or dogs on a leash when it puts other trail users and their leashed dogs at risk?

Bikers aren't looking at the dog behind them or really even the dog in front of them if they are actively riding and controlling a bike down a trail.

Loose dogs can and do go anywhere along a trail including off trail. Again, the dog owner on the bike isn't going to see what the dog is up to especially when it is behind the bike or off the trail somewhere. I feel the same about dog walkers as it is always possible that a dog runs off trail and out of site of the owner.

There is a rule about cleaning up your dog's mess. Bike riders and hikers are likely not going to see this happen when the dog is running behind them or off trail. This is why a leash is much more effective because the dog owner using a leash will definitely know when the dog stops to poop.

Use of an e-collar requires training between the dog owner and the dog. How will you know if the person using an e-collar really knows what they are doing and can control the dog? How will you know if the e-collar is charged up sufficiently and is effective?

I think the best idea is to require leashes on all dogs except those in designated off-leash areas.”

11. Informational Items:

- a. The next Title 17 Review Committee meeting will be held Thursday, September 8, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. at Anchorage Animal Care and Control.
- b. The next Animal Control Advisory Board meeting will be held Thursday, September 22, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. via Microsoft Teams.

12. Adjournment: Ms. Schamber motioned to adjourn. Adjourned at 5:57 PM.