



Municipality of Anchorage
Animal Control Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
October 27, 2022



1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m. by Ms. Hamer. A quorum was present.

Members Present Allegra Hamer, Chair; Cathy Foerster, Pamela Schamber, Tim Ebben, Sandy Potter.

Members Absent: Rachelle Alger, Jessie Janowski.

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

Public Present: Sarah Harris, Samantha Harris, Neil O'Donnell, Frank Lahr.

2. **Minutes from September, August 2022, Meeting:**

August Minutes

Minutes were reviewed. Approved

September Minutes

Minutes were reviewed. Approved

3. **Requested Presentations:**

None.

4. **Persons to be Heard:**

None.

5. **Standing Reports:**

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

Ms. Vannatter summarized the highlights of the September 2022 Anchorage Animal Care and Control Monthly Report.

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

6. Committee Reports:

a. Title 17 Review Committee – (Pam Schamber)

Ms. Schamber reported:

Title 17 continued work on clarifying information under control and e-collars. There have not been any proposed changes to the intent of Title 17.

c. Spay Neuter Working Group (Allegra Hamer)

Ms. Hamer reported

She has no updates currently. The group is inactive.

7. AHD Staff Reports:

Ms. Liebersbach reported:

Ms. Sis' term expired, and she chose not to reapply.

Recommendations for reappointments for Ms. Foerster and Ms. Schamber were pushed forward.

Recommendation to appoint Mr. Frank Koloski to the ACAB.

The budget process is currently with the Assembly to have work sessions and ultimately pass the budget in November.

8. Old Business: None.

9. New Business: November and December meeting date(s).

There was a motion to combine the November and December meetings into one meeting to be held Thursday, December 15, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. via Microsoft Teams. The motion was approved.

10. Persons to be Heard on Meeting Topics:

Mr. Frank Lahr commented

This applies to the winter trails as well as summer trails, as the summer trails can have a lot of thick tree roots, ruts and rocks laying across them at various angles. These roots and rocks can be very slick and concentrating on the trail and not the unleashed dog is key for biker safety.

The singletrack trails are the extreme example of this but the wider groomed trails, in the winter, can also be difficult to ride unless they have been nicely groomed and are hard packed enough to be able to maneuver a bike side to side while riding down them looking around to control an unleashed dog.

Bottom line, it is difficult to monitor unleashed dogs on these trails- whether an e-collar is being used or not.

One solution is to require the use of easily available leashes developed for use by bikers.

Mr. Neil O'Donnell commented

I live near Service High School. My wife and I regularly use Far North Bicentennial Park to walk, run, and ski. I understand that consideration is being given in the review of Title 17 to permitting e-collars in addition to physical leashes on dogs. I think that is a bad idea. People approached by an e-collared dog are unlikely to recognize until late in the interaction that the dog has an e-collar. They will often feel threatened by the approach of an apparently unrestrained dog. Controlling a dog through an e-collar will also take considerable training of the dog, which will invariably be inconsistent between owners. In contrast, a leashed dog is always under the control of the owner and that control is visible to others. Furthermore, unleashed dogs often range considerable distances from their owners. Dog owners on bicycles are particularly unlikely to be in good control of their e-collared dogs. On substantial downhills, dogs often lag well behind and out of sight of their owners. This lack of control will be even more pronounced on single track bike trails which demand solid concentration by the rider on the trail ahead just to avoid flying off into the woods. This is not just an issue for following single track riders. In my area of town, the single-track trails intersect with Spencer Loop Trail in several locations. In short, I am opposed to authorizing an e-collar as an alternative to a physical leash.

Ms. Sarah Harris commented

Here is a short summary of our concerns & issues:

- off-leash dogs in neighborhoods and in areas where leashes are required
- dogs jumping over fences and charging us and our dog
- General feelings that we can't take our dog places, even where leashes are required, out of fear of off-leash dog attacks
- Injury on multi-use trails due to off leash dogs, and general concern about some of the more crowded multi-use trails
- A desire for solutions to break the cycle of fear aggression in Anchorage (dogs attacking dogs, creating fear aggression, and then that dog attacking another dog, etc.). Ex: We have a friend whose dog was attacked so many times that she now has unpredictable behavior. Our friend keeps her leashed and muzzled when in public, but she has to constantly deal with off

leash dogs running up to her and her dog in public spaces which fuels her dog's aggression and counters and progress they have made

- One more that may not be covered under Title 17 - the issue of owners not cleaning up their dog's poop in public spaces, and solutions for promoting awareness and resources to encourage responsible pet clean-up

We will try to attend an upcoming Title 17 meeting and share our feedback regarding off-leash dogs with BLM. Let us know if there are any other meetings you think we would be interested in, or if there are other ways to stay involved and contribute to solutions for these issues

11. Informational Items:

- a. The next Title 17 Review Committee meeting will be held Thursday, December 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, December 15, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. via Microsoft Teams.

12. Adjournment: Ms. Foerster motioned to adjourn.