



Municipality of Anchorage
Animal Control Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
February 26, 2026



1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Raylene Griffith.

2. **Board Members Present:**

Raylene Griffith, Matt Hall, Tim Ebben, Sam Fierro, Sandy Potter and Pam Schamber

Staff Present:

Tamiah Liebersbach and Debbie Burks – Anchorage Health Department (AHD)

Melissa Summerfield, Logan Robinson and Laura Wyatt– Animal Licensing and Placement Services (ALPS).

Bernard Chastain and Brian Barlow - Denali Universal Services

3. **Minutes from January 22, 2026:**

Sam Fierro moved to approve the minutes. Sandy Potter seconded. Motion carried.

4. **Requested Presentations:**

None

5. **Persons To Be Heard:**

Introductions of Board Members and other supporting staff present:

Board Members:

Raylene Griffith, Chair, Animal Control Advisory Board (ACAB)

- Former Municipality employee. Background in veterinary clinics, dog grooming, dog daycare, and animal rescue.

Matt Hall, Vice Chair, ACAB; Anchorage Police Department (APD)

- Board member for approximately two years.
- Serves as liaison between APD and Animal Control.
- Chairs the Title 17 Review Committee.

Sandy Potter, Board Member

- Approximately six years on the board. Background in horse community, dog shows, and dog training.

Sam Fierro, Board Member

- Involved in cat rescue operations (Houston to Homer). Active in community cat trapping efforts.

Board Members continued:

Tim Ebben, Board Member

- Retired U.S. Air Force.
- Co-owner of dog daycare business in Eagle River (approximately 18 years).

Pam Schamber, Board Member

- On board for many years
- Has sled dogs and horses

Anchorage Health Department (AHD)

Tamiah Liebersbach, Grants & Contracts Administrative Manager

- Oversees grants and contracts for AHD, including the Anchorage Animal Care and Control contract.

Debbie Burks, AHD IT Coordinator and Facility Maintenance Manager

- Supports IT needs and facilitates facility maintenance for the shelter through Municipality Maintenance and Operations.
- Provides administrative support for the Animal Control Advisory Board (ACAB).

Anchorage Animal Care and Control (AACC) Staff:

Melissa Summerfield, Shelter Manager

- Oversees daily shelter operations.

Layra Wyatt, Enforcement Captain

- New to position.

Joel Jorgensen, Community Outreach Manager

- Focus on community outreach and engagement.

Bernard Chastain, Denali Universal Services (DUS)

- Involved with AACC contract for approximately two years.
- Recently promoted to Vice President, transitioning from direct oversight.

Brian Barlow, Denali Universal Services (DUS)

- Former Alaska State Trooper (approximately 26 years).
- Newly hired to take over direct oversight of AACC contract.

6. Standing Reports:

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

Melissa Summerfield, Shelter Manager and Joel Jorgensen, Community Outreach

- **Animal Seizure Case and Protective Custody:** Staff reported the animal seizure that

occurred at the end of January remains ongoing. The shelter continues to manage animals in protective custody, including rabbits, chickens and other small animals. The shelter is at capacity for these animals, and they are not available for adoption. Staff are working with outside organizations to identify placement and support options.

- **Shelter Population and Adoptions:** Adoptions for dogs and cats remain strong. Shelter populations are low, with animals placed quickly after intake.
- **Community Support and Partnerships:** Partner shelters across Alaska continue to assist with animal transfers to support capacity.
- **Vaccine Clinic:** A vaccine clinic is scheduled for April 25. Pre-registration will be available through April 20, with walk-in services also offered.

7. Committee Reports:

Title 17 - Sgt. Matt Hall Report:

- The committee is reviewing fees and civil fines, including proposed increases of approximately 10% and 30%. Items will be reviewed individually at upcoming meetings. Current fees have not been updated in several years and do not reflect inflation.

8. AHD Staff Reports:

Tamiah Liebersbach -

- **Assembly Review – Title 17 and Chapter 8.55:** Proposed changes to Chapter 8.55 and Title 17 have been submitted to the Assembly. Public testimony is scheduled for the next Assembly meeting. A work session with the Assembly has also been scheduled to review the proposed changes and answer questions.
- **Board Vacancies:** Three vacancies remain on the Animal Control Advisory Board.
- **State Legislation:** An update was provided on a state bill related to animal programs. The bill has been revised to separate spay and neuter funding from provisions related to feral cat programs. Staff continue to monitor the legislation.
- **Media Outreach:** AHD Staff participated in an interview with Alaska Public Media regarding the impact of large animal seizure cases on shelter operations. The story is expected to be released in the coming weeks.
- **Animal Seizure Case – Legal Process:** A cost of care bond petition has been filed under state statute for the ongoing animal seizure case.
- **Upcoming Elections:** Chair and Vice Chair elections will be at the next March 26 meeting. elected.

9. Old Business

- Elections for Chair and Vice Chair will be held at the March 26 meeting.

10. New Business

None

11. Persons to be Heard on Meeting Topics:

None

12. Informational Items:

- a. The next Title 17 Review Committee meeting will be held Thursday, March 12, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at Anchorage Animal Care and Control. The phone number to call in to hear is 907.343.6060
- b. The next Animal Control Advisory Board meeting will be held Thursday, March 26, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at Anchorage Animal Care and Control. The phone number to call in to hear is 907.343.6060

13. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 6:32 p.m.