



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



1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Raylene Griffith.

2. **Board Members Present:**

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

Staff Present:

Debbie Burks – Anchorage Health Department (AHD)

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

3. **Minutes from February 26, 2026:**

Sam Fierro moved to approve the minutes. Matt Hall seconded. Motion carried.

4. **Requested Presentations:**

None

5. **Persons To Be Heard:**

None

6. **Standing Reports:**

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

Melissa Summerfield, Shelter Manager and Laura Wyatt, Enforcement Captain

- **Shelter Capacity and Relocation:** Staff reported ongoing capacity challenges due to a high number of animals, particularly rabbits. Relocation to an alternate location is being explored to reduce strain on the facility.
- **Staffing:** Staffing remains a challenge due to the time-intensive care required; however, ACO staffing is now at full capacity with one officer currently in training.
- **Intake and Adoptions:** Adoptions continue and intake is being actively managed to limit additional volume in preparation for the increased demand during the summer months.
- **Cost of Care Bonding:** The ordinance has been implemented, and the first petition has been filed with the Hearing Office related to an active cruelty case.
- **Vaccine Clinic and Outreach:** A community vaccine clinic is scheduled for April 25 with the deadline for the pre-registration April 20th. There has been strong public interest, and outreach efforts are increasing as seasonal demand rises.

7. **Committee Reports:**

Title 17 - Sgt. Matt Hall Report:

- **Title 17 Fines and Fees Update:** Title 17 Committee has completed a proposed update to the fines and fees schedule, including adjustments generally aligned closer to a 30% increase and rounded to the nearest dollar. Proposed changes also include stepped fee structures for redemption and impoundment, as well as escalating fines for repeat animal nuisance violations. 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.
- **Review and Voting Status:** The updated fines and fees document was distributed to members for review; however, not all members have had sufficient time to review the proposed changes.
 - **Action:** The committee agreed to postpone discussion and voting on the updated fines and fees schedule until the next meeting to allow additional time for review.
- **Committee Name Discussion:** A potential name change related to the Animal Welfare Advisory Group (AWAG) was introduced for future discussion.

8. AHD Staff Reports:

Debbie Burks for Tamiah Liebersbach -

- **Assembly Review – Title 17 and Chapter 8.55:** AO 2026 passed the Assembly on March 3 and implementation is underway, including legal review and updates to Titles 8.55 and 17.
- **Board Vacancies:** There are currently two board vacancies.
- **State Legislation:** Report noted that House Bill 348, related to trap, neuter/spay, vaccinate, and release of feral cats, has been referred to the House Community and Regional Affairs Committee. Timing for further action is unknown.
- **Additional Updates (Matt Hall):** Reported that patrol staff have received training on recent updates to Titles 8 and 17, including animal-related provisions and animals in vehicles. Staff are generally aware of the changes, though not yet fully versed in all details. Also noted awareness of House Bill 335, which proposes evacuation planning requirements to include pets during evacuations. Status of the bill remains unknown.

9. Old Business

- **Election of Officers:** Nominations were opened for Chair and Vice Chair. Raylene Griffith was nominated and elected as Chair with no opposition. Matt Hall was nominated and elected as Vice Chair with no opposition.

10. New Business

Advisory Board Committee Name Discussion: General discussion was held regarding a potential name change, including a suggestion to use Animal Welfare Advisory Group (AWAG). Members expressed interest in further consideration and agreed to bring additional name suggestions to next meeting. It was noted that a name change may require updates to municipal code; confirmation is pending.

11. Persons to be Heard on Meeting Topics:

None

12. Informational Items:

- a. The next Title 17 Review Committee meeting will be held Thursday, April 16, 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, April 23, 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 6:17 p.m.