



Municipality of Anchorage
Animal Control Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
April 23, 2026



1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Raylene Griffith.

2. **Board Members Present:**

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

Staff Present:

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

Melissa Summerfield and Joel Jorgensen – Animal Licensing and Placement Services (ALPS).

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

Correction to section 12.b – date corrected to April 23. Sandy Potter moved to approve the minutes. Raylene Griffith seconded. Motion carried.

Introductions: Board members, Animal Control staff, and AHD staff provided brief introductions for the benefit of new Board member Melinda Greig.

- **Raylene Griffith** – Serves as Board Chair and brings experience with pet rescue groups, veterinary clinics, dog daycare, grooming facilities, and prior city work.
- **Sam Fierro** – Has served on the board for about one year. Volunteers full time with Clear Creek Cat Rescue and assists with community cat trapping and shelter cat support.
- **Melissa Summerfield** – Shelter Manager for Anchorage Animal Care and Control and has been with AACC for nearly four years.
- **Joel Jorgensen** – Community Outreach Manager for Anchorage Animal Care and Control and has been with AACC for four years.
- **Pam Schamber** – Has served on the board for several years and brings perspective from the mushing community.
- **Debbie Burks** – Attends meetings on behalf of the Anchorage Health Department to provide administrative support during meetings and is responsible for assisting shelter with reporting of IT issues and facility maintenance to Municipality as appropriate.
- **Tamiah Liebersbach** – Administration Manager for the Anchorage Health Department. She oversees the Animal Care and Control contract, staffs the board and provides technical support.
- **Melinda Greig** – New member - Retired school psychologist with community involvement in coaching. She shared that her love of animals and experience adopting Bailey helped inspire her interest in serving on the ACAB board.
- **Sandy Potter** – Has served on the board for multiple terms and brings experience with dogs, horses, trails, dog showing, and rescue organizations.
- **Matt Hall** – Sergeant with the Anchorage Police Department, animal patrol liaison, and

Board Vice Chair. He brings a law enforcement perspective to board discussions.

- **Tim Ebben** – Operates a dog daycare in Eagle River with his wife and brings perspective related to dog daycare and the Eagle River community.

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 Joel Jorgensen, Community Outreach Manager

- **Shelter Capacity and Animal Care:** Continued care of approximately 150 animals seized in January, including approximately 100 rabbits. Relocation of the rabbits to a separate facility has helped reduce shelter stress and space limitations.
- **Summer Intake Preparation:** Preparation is underway for the expected summer increase in stray animal intake. Adoption events and adoption discounts are being used to help increase kennel space availability.
- **Community Outreach and Foster Support:** Community outreach continues through off-site adoption events, puppy yoga, volunteer recruitment, foster program expansion, and community partnerships.
- **Community Vaccine Clinic:** Upcoming community vaccine clinic scheduled for Saturday includes approximately 60 pre-registered families representing 89 animals, with additional walk-ins expected. The clinic supports preventive animal care and has been well received by the community.
- **Title 17 Cost-of-Care Bonding:** The first use of the newly implemented cost-of-care bonding provision under Title 17 was successful. The bond was paid, a third-party placement was secured for the animals, and the animals are no longer at the shelter. It was clarified that the provision cannot be applied retroactively to the rabbit case.
- **Grant Opportunity:** Best Friends Animal Society is working on grant funding for expansion of the front play yard.

7. **Committee Reports:**

Title 17 - Sgt. Matt Hall Report:

- **Fine Schedule and Administrative Fees:** Updates are being developed for the Title 17 fine schedule and related administrative fees, including an approximate 30% increase to align with inflation.
- **Step System Review:** Discussion included possible revisions to the step system for multiple seizures or found animals entering Animal Care and Control. The Board discussed delaying a vote until updated materials are available for review.

8. AHD Staff Reports:

Tamiah Liebersbach -

- **Board Vacancies:** Two board seats remain open. Members are encouraged to refer interested individuals for application information.
- **Animal Control Contract Budget:** Additional funding for the animal control contract for the last three months of the year was included in the first quarter budget revision process. No concerns were raised during last Assembly work session.
- **2027 Budget Planning:** Budget planning for 2027 will begin after the first quarter revision process. Department-wide cuts are anticipated, but maintaining animal control service levels remains a priority.
- **Rabbit Case Cost-of-Care Petition:** The cost-of-care petition related to the rabbit case is scheduled to be heard on May 19.
- **Shelter Needs Assessment:** A needs assessment is being coordinated with the University of Wisconsin Shelter Medicine Program to evaluate staffing needs, shelter capacity, community needs, and possible facility improvements.
- **Facility and Building Needs:** Washer and dryer upgrades, wall brickwork repairs, and other facility needs remain under review. Larger building improvements need to be considered through a future bond package.
- **Long-Term Facility Planning:** Discussion included the need for a more flexible shelter design to better support changing animal care needs over time.
- **Grant, Donation, and Municipal Property Process:** Discussion included how food and consumable donations are accepted, as well as how monetary donations, grants, and large public contributions for facility improvements or future building projects must go through municipal approval, contracting, bidding, and appropriation processes.

9. Old Business

Name Change of Advisory Board – Discussion regarding a possible name change for the Advisory Board was postponed until the next meeting to allow additional ideas and discussion.

10. New Business

Animal Welfare Investigation Discussion: Board discussion included public concerns related to recent animal welfare investigations in the Mat-Su Valley and Anchorage, including community response, enforcement limitations, and differences between Anchorage Title 17 and Mat-Su Title 24 regulations. Discussion also included the role of law enforcement agencies and state law in animal cruelty investigations and enforcement actions.

11. Persons to be Heard on Meeting Topics:

None

12. Informational Items:

- a. The next Title 17 Review Committee meeting will be held Thursday, May 14, 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, May 28, 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 6:50 p.m.