



Municipality of Anchorage
Animal Control Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
May 28, 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, Pam Schamber, and Melinda Greig

Staff Present:

Tamiah Liebersbach – Anchorage Health Department (AHD)

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

3. **Minutes from April 23, 2026:**

Sandy Potter moved to approve the minutes. Matt Hall seconded. Motion carried.

Requested Presentations:

None

4. **Persons To Be Heard:**

None

5. **Standing Reports:**

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

Melissa Summerfield, Logan Robinson, and Joel Jorgensen:

- **Shelter Capacity and Animal Care:** AACC reported increased shelter population pressures due to summer intake and the ongoing January animal seizure case. Staff reported taking in nearly 40 animals over a three-day period, while one dog row remains unavailable due to the seizure case.
- **Animal Seizure Case:** The ongoing seizure case continues to impact shelter operations and includes approximately 100 rabbits and close to 40 chickens/roosters. Staff are working with the enforcement unit to move the case forward and are exploring options to relocate the birds and reopen dog housing space.
- **Population Management and Placement Support:** Staff reported actively pursuing placement and housing alternatives to avoid space-based euthanasia decisions. Efforts include coordinating with rescue partners and identifying additional pathways for animal placement.
- **Best Friends Animal Society Support:** AACC reported receiving support from Best Friends Animal Society, including funding for animal behavior services, foster and rescue programs, animal transfers, staff training, and other shelter initiatives. Best Friends also approved a \$150-per-animal stipend for rescue organizations that adopt animals from AACC.
- **Animal Enrichment and Adoption Support:** Staff reported continued use of shelter dog

playgroups to support animal behavior, improve adoption matching, and reduce adoption returns.

- **Volunteer and Community Engagement:** Staff reported development of new volunteer initiatives and noted that summer adoption, outreach, and community engagement events are ongoing.
- **Enforcement Update:** Enforcement staff reported continued high activity levels and noted that Title 17 cost-of-care bonding provisions have been beneficial in helping owners secure alternative housing arrangements for animals involved in enforcement cases, reducing impacts on shelter capacity.
- **Intake Trends:** Staff reported that recent intake increases appear to be primarily related to stray animals and seasonal activity.
- **Spay/Neuter Compliance:** Staff provided an update on compliance efforts, reporting that reminder letters and violation notices continue to assist with obtaining required documentation from pet owners.

6. Committee Reports:

Title 17 - Sgt. Matt Hall Report:

- **Fines and Fees Update:** The committee reviewed proposed Title 17 updates to the fines and fee schedule to reflect inflationary increases since the last adjustment. Proposed changes were generally based on an approximate 30% increase.
 - Raylene Griffith moved to approve the proposed changes and advance them to the Assembly. Sandy Potter seconded. Unanimous consent.
- **Special Purpose Licenses:** The committee reviewed proposed Title 17 changes related to animal litter licenses, commercial facility licenses, and veterinary clinic licensing requirements for non-medical boarding or grooming.
 - **Returned for further review.** During discussion, inconsistencies were identified in the draft language regarding when litter activity requires a commercial facility license, including how the requirement applies to mushing and multi-animal facilities. The proposal will be revised before being brought back for future consideration.
- **Licensing Compliance and Public Education:** The Board discussed compliance challenges related to animal litter and rescue licensing requirements, methods for identifying unlicensed breeding activity, and potential public outreach efforts to educate residents about licensing requirements and proposed Title 17 changes. The Board also discussed the need for advance notice and implementation timelines should future fee or licensing changes be approved.

7. AHD Staff Reports:

Tamiah Liebersbach -

- **Board Vacancies:** Two vacancies remain on the Animal Control Advisory Board. Community members interested in serving on the Board are encouraged to apply.
- **Best Friends Animal Society Support:** An update was provided on grant funding and support opportunities from Best Friends Animal Society. The support was noted as helpful to shelter operations and animal welfare initiatives, particularly in light of current municipal budget constraints.
- **Large Animal Seizure Case:** The ongoing seizure case involving approximately 100 rabbits is not expected to be resolved before the end of July. A cost-of-care bond trial is scheduled for late July, and coordination continues to secure the resources and facility support necessary to care for the animals while the case remains pending.
- **2027 Budget Planning:** Development of the 2027 budget is underway. While the department anticipates overall budget constraints, maintaining support for the animal control contract remains a departmental priority.
- **Spay and Neuter Funding:** Funding challenges associated with expanding spay and neuter services were discussed. Requests for additional funding have been submitted during previous budget cycles but have not been included in recent budgets.
- **Animal Control Contract and Staffing:** An overview was provided of the animal control contract, contractor selection process, staffing responsibilities, and current funding limitations. Discussion included staffing capacity needs and the relationship between contract funding levels and available staffing resources.
- **Facility Maintenance and Long-Term Planning:** Ongoing facility maintenance challenges, limitations of the current shelter, and long-term planning efforts were discussed. A future bond request is being considered as part of the 2027 budget process to fund facility assessment and design work, estimated at approximately \$700,000 to \$800,000, for potential renovation or replacement of the facility.

8. Old Business

Advisory Board Name Change: No discussion occurred.

9. New Business

None

10. Persons to be Heard on Meeting Topics:

None

11. Informational Items:

- a. The next Title 17 Review Committee meeting will be held Thursday, June 11, 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, June 25, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at Anchorage Animal Care and Control. The phone number to call in to hear is 907.343.6060

12. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 6:56 p.m.