



Municipality of Anchorage
Animal Control Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
June 25, 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, Sandy Potter, Pam Schamber, and Melinda Greig
Excused: Sam Fierro

Staff Present:

Tamiah Liebersbach & Debbie Burks – Anchorage Health Department (AHD)
Melissa Summerfield, Logan Robinson, Joel Jorgensen and Laura Wyatt – Animal Licensing and Placement Services (ALPS).

3. **Minutes from May 28, 2026:**

Pam Schamber moved to approve the minutes. Raylene Griffith 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, Laura Wyatt & Joel Jorgensen:

- **Seasonal Operations and Staffing:** AACC is experiencing its busiest season. Summer adoption activity typically slows, resulting in animals remaining at the shelter longer. Some vacant positions have been filled; however, two Customer Service Representative positions and one Animal Control Officer position remain vacant.
- **Animal Seizure Case:** The court case involving the seizure of approximately 150 animals continues to progress. Resolution of the case would reduce the number of animals being held and relieve pressure on shelter operations.
- **Title 17 Cost-of-Care Provisions:** The cost-of-care petition process continues to benefit cruelty and neglect cases by encouraging owners to arrange third-party placement, pay animal care costs, or complete the process through which the animals become AACC property.
- **Best Friends Animal Society Funding:** AACC received grant funding to support new programs, community resources, and stipends for rescue organizations accepting animals from AACC.
- **Adoption Events and Community Partnerships:** Participation in Camp Bow Wow's grand opening resulted in six additional boarding facilities expressing interest in hosting adoption

events.

- **Youth and Community Engagement:** Parks and Recreation brought 24 children to AACC for a shelter tour and animal-enrichment activities. A community member also proposed organizing a 5K fundraiser to benefit AACC.
- **Girl Scout Community Project:** Six seventh-grade Girl Scouts completed a community project and earned one of the Girl Scout badges. They created a website explaining the benefits of shelter adoption, AACC's adoption process, and ways to help animals remain in their adopted homes. They also prepared adoption bags containing collars, leashes, and toys for distribution at adoption events.
- **Tails on Trails:** The Tails on Trails program continues to receive strong community participation during its second year.
- **Rescue and Transfer Support:** Although many rescue organizations are at capacity during the summer and kitten season, shelters throughout Alaska continue to assist with transfers. The Kenai shelter has accepted groups of five cats from AACC, with the cats reportedly adopted within three to four days.

6. Committee Reports:

Title 17 - Sgt. Matt Hall:

- **Proposed 17.15.060. Special Purpose License Changes:** The Board reviewed two main proposed changes: revisions to animal litter and commercial facility licensing requirements, and a requirement for veterinary clinics that board or groom animals for non-medical purposes to obtain a commercial facility license. The Board also reviewed a proposed requirement for animal rescue advertisements to include the organization's license number.
- **Animal Litter Licensing:** The proposed revisions would require an animal litter license for any litter that is sold or reconveyed. Individuals who sell or reconvey more than one litter in a calendar year would be required to obtain a commercial facility license. Existing multi-animal and mushing license holders would be required to obtain a commercial facility license when selling or reconveying three litters in a calendar year.
- **Commercial Facility Licensing:** The Board discussed proposed requirements for veterinary clinics to obtain a commercial facility license when boarding or grooming dogs, cats, rabbits, ferrets, or horses for non-medical purposes.
- **Animal Rescue Advertising:** The proposed revisions would require animal rescue advertisements to include the organization's license number.
- **License Classifications and Inspections:** The Board discussed commercial, multi-animal, and mushing license classifications; inspection requirements; and whether facility license categories could be consolidated in the future.
- **License Fees:** The Board discussed potential fee changes, including a proposed increase in the animal litter license fee from \$25 to \$50.
- **Next Steps:** The Board discussed whether to advance selected revisions separately or include them in a broader Title 17 update. No formal action or vote was taken. Further review is needed before proposed changes are presented to the Assembly.

7. AHD Staff Reports:

Tamiah Liebersbach -

- **Board Vacancies:** Two Board positions remain vacant. One application has been submitted, and a potential appointment is pending review by the Mayor's Office.
- **Cost-of-Care Bond Petition:** The Municipality prevailed in the state-level cost-of-care bond petition related to the rabbit seizure case. The owner was given a deadline to post the required bond; if the bond is not posted, the animals will become Municipal property and may move through the AACC placement process. The bond amount exceeds \$30,000 and was based on an estimated three months of care.
- **Facility Capacity:** Resolution of the rabbit seizure case is expected to allow AACC to return the space currently used to house the seized animals to general shelter operations sooner than anticipated.
- **2027 Budget and Facility Improvements:** Work has begun on the 2027 budget. Staff are also identifying short-term facility improvements that may be completed with available current-year funds, while continuing to consider longer-term facility upgrades.

8. Old Business

Advisory Board Name Change: The Board will continue to consider a possible new name as Title 17 work progresses.

9. New Business

- **Wildlife Safety Public Service Announcement:** A Board member asked Animal Control Public Outreach Facebook consider social media messaging about wildlife risks to pets, including eagles and other birds of prey, in addition to existing moose and bear information. Animal Control staff indicated they could post time-sensitive notices when alerted to a specific wildlife concern and develop a general pet-safety message emphasizing leash use, awareness of wildlife activity, and precautions when outdoors.
- **Mat-Su Animal Care Investigation Report:** A Board member asked whether AACC had reviewed the Mat-Su Animal Care investigation findings for potential lessons or similar gaps. Staff stated that they are reviewing the report and AACC practices related to training, policies, case oversight, and enforcement procedures. Staff noted that AACC operates differently from the Mat-Su program and has existing oversight and training processes. The publicly available report will be distributed to Board members.

10. Persons to be Heard on Meeting Topics:

None

11. Informational Items:

- a. The next Title 17 Review Committee meeting will be held Thursday, July 9, 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, July 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

12. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 7:36 p.m.