

Submitted by: Chair of the Assembly at  
the request of the Mayor  
Prepared by: Anchorage Health  
Department  
For reading: September 26, 2023

**ANCHORAGE, ALASKA  
AO No. 2023-94**

1 **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CODE TITLE 17,**  
2 **ANIMALS, TO CLARIFY MEANING, BY AMENDING SECTIONS 17.05.010 AND**  
3 **17.10.010.**  
4

---

5  
6 **WHEREAS**, Anchorage Municipal Code Title 17 (Animals) has been determined by  
7 the Administration and the Animal Control Advisory Board (ACAB) to need  
8 modifications in order to further define the control of animals and clarify types of  
9 control allowed in public places and

10  
11 **WHEREAS**, the ACAB took public comment on the proposed ordinance in writing  
12 and at its January 26, 2023, meeting.

13  
14 **THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY ORDAINS:**

15  
16 **Section 1.** Anchorage Municipal Code section 17.05.010, Definitions, generally,  
17 is hereby amended by enacting the following definitions (*other definitions in the*  
18 *section are not affected and therefore not set out*):

19  
20 **17.05.010 – Definitions, generally.**

21  
22 The following words, terms, and phrases, and their other verb forms and  
23 tenses, when used in this title, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in  
24 this section, except where the context indicates a different meaning:

25  
26 \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*

27  
28 *Control*, in relation to an animal, means to simultaneously monitor,  
29 direct, and restrict an animal's movements and activities in a humane  
30 manner to prevent violations of this title. Specific types of control are  
31 defined as follows:

- 32  
33 1. *Control by command* means to control an animal by visual or  
34 audible commands. A controlled animal off-leash will return to  
35 its custodian at the time it has been called. The animal will not  
36 run after wildlife. The animal will not approach people. The  
37 animal will not run up to other animals [, OR A COMBINATION  
38 THEREOF, TO WHICH THE ANIMAL RESPONDS  
39 PROMPTLY AND ACCURATELY]; or

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49

\*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*

3. *Control by leash* means to control an animal by securely attaching a leash, [CHAIN] or an item which is physically capable of restraining the animal, [INCLUDING ELECTRONIC COLLAR,] to the animal which is in the secure possession of a person physically and mentally capable of monitoring, directing and restricting the animal's movements and activities; or

\*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*

6. *Control by Electronic Collar (e-collar)* means the animal is trained to respond to a mild shock, vibration, or sound upon receiving a signal from a remote transmitter. A controlled animal must be within eyesight and within range of the e-collar. A controlled animal using an e-collar will return to its custodian at the time it has been called. A controlled animal will not run after wildlife. The animal will not approach people. The animal will not run up to other animals.

\*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*

(AO No. 2001-158(S-4), § 1, 1-1-03; AO No. 2004-86, § 1, 5-18-04; AO No. 2009-88, § 1, 9-10-09; AO No. 2013-142, § 1, 12-17-13; AO No. 2016-55, § 2, 6-7-16 ; AO No. 2017-87 , § 1, 6-13-17; AO No. 2018-112 , § 1, 1-15-19; AO No. 2019-91(S-1) , § 1, 12-3-19)

**Section 2.** Anchorage Municipal Code section 17.10.010, Animals in public places, is hereby amended to read as follows (*the remainder of the section is not affected and therefore not set out*):

**17.10.010 Animals in public places.**

A. It is unlawful for any animal to be in a public place unless it is controlled by a leash and in the control of a person competent to restrain the animal except:

1. Control of an animal by command is allowed if the animal is engaged in an activity that precludes it from accomplishing that activity if restrained, and the animal is in an area consistent with the area's intended use [NORMALLY ASSOCIATED WITH THAT ACTIVITY], and the activity is conducted in a manner that does not impact the general public. A leash per animal must be in possession of the custodian. [MINIMIZES IMPACT WITH THE GENERAL

PUBLIC;] Activities NOT allowed under control by command include but are not limited to hiking, walking, biking, and skiing.

- 2. A dog may be unconfined in areas sanctioned by the municipality as off-leash dog areas. The owner or custodian of a dog, unconfined in an off-leash dog area, must have a leash restraint immediately available for the physical control of the dog and be physically capable of controlling the dog;
- 3. An animal, at shows and events, may be unconfined during the time of the demonstration in a manner that does not pose a threat to public health and safety or the safety of other animals;
- 4. An animal may be humanely attached in or to a vehicle in a public place, provided the animal may not:
  - a. Be capable of removing or detaching itself from the vehicle;
  - b. Be attached so as to fall, jump, be thrown from, or dragged by the vehicle;
  - c. Be exposed to prolonged inclement weather; or
  - d. Pose a threat to public health and safety or the safety of other animals.
- 5. An animal may be humanely contained inside an attended or locked, fully enclosed container.
- 6. Control of an animal by e-collar is allowed if the collar is worn by the animal properly and the collar and remote controller are functional throughout the duration of its use. The animal must be within eyesight and within range of the e-collar. No more than three animals per custodian. A leash per animal must be in possession of the custodian. An animal on an e-collar must conduct itself in a manner that does not impact the general public.

(AO No. 2001-158(S-4), § 1, 1-1-03)

**Section 3.** This ordinance shall be effective immediately upon passage and approval by the Assembly.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair of the Assembly

ATTEST:

1  
2  
3  
4

---

Municipal Clerk



# MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE

## Assembly Memorandum

No. AM 705-2023

Meeting Date: September 26, 2023

1 **FROM: MAYOR**

2  
3 **SUBJECT: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CODE**  
4 **TITLE 17, ANIMALS, TO CLARIFY MEANING, BY AMENDING**  
5 **SECTIONS 17.05.010 AND 17.10.010.**  
6

7 **WHEREAS**, the purpose of Title 17 is to promote the public health and safety of  
8 both animals and humans; and  
9

10 **WHEREAS**, control of animals by owners or custodians while in public places is  
11 needed to maintain the public health and safety of both animals and humans;  
12 and  
13

14 **WHEREAS**, Anchorage Municipal Code Title 17 (Animals) has been determined  
15 by the Administration and the Animal Control Advisory Board (ACAB) to need  
16 modifications in order to make the intention of the code clear, further, define the  
17 control of animals, and clarify types of control allowed in public places; and  
18

19 **WHEREAS**, the ACAB developed proposed changes to the ordinance, released  
20 them for public input in June of 2020, and received public comment from over  
21 175 individuals in writing and at the ACAB's July 23, 2020 meeting; and  
22

23 **WHEREAS**, the ACAB, based on the received public input, developed a second  
24 version of proposed changes to the ordinance, released them for public input in  
25 December of 2020, and received public comment from over 550 individuals in  
26 writing and at the ACAB's January 28, 2021 meeting; and  
27

28 **WHEREAS**, the ACAB, based on the received public input, developed a third  
29 version of proposed changes to the ordinance, released them for public input in  
30 December of 2022, and received public comment from over 100 individuals in  
31 writing and at the ACAB's January 26, 2023 meeting; and  
32

33 **WHEREAS**, public comment was overwhelmingly against removing electronic  
34 collars as a direct substitute for leashes as currently allowed under Title 17; and  
35

36 **WHEREAS**, the current wording in Title 17 often causes confusion; for example,  
37 many members of the public have expressed that they did not know that the code  
38 does not allow for off-leash dog walking, skiing, or biking unless the pet is in a  
39 designated off-leash dog park space; and  
40

1 **WHEREAS**, the recommended modifications are meant to make the code more  
2 easily understood by members of the public and more clear to enforce; and  
3

4 **WHEREAS**, recommended modifications represent minimal changes to the  
5 current code and are not meant to change the intention of the code, but instead  
6 are meant to:  
7

- 8 1. Clarify the behaviors an animal must demonstrate to be considered under  
9 control by command;
- 10 2. Define what it means for an animal to be under control by electronic collar,  
11 including the behaviors an animal must demonstrate to be considered  
12 under control by an electronic collar;
- 13 3. Further define parameters of when an animal is allowed to be under  
14 control by command in public places;
- 15 4. Create parameters for when an animal is allowed to be under control by  
16 an electronic collar in public places.  
17

18 **WHEREAS**, the Animal Control Advisory Board unanimously supports the  
19 recommended ordinance as voted on at the Animal Control Advisory Board  
20 meeting on February 23, 2023.  
21

22 **THE ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDS APPROVAL.**  
23

24  
25  
26  
27 Prepared by: Tamiah Liebersbach, Administration Manager,  
28 Anchorage Health Department  
29 Approved by: Kimberly Rash, Acting Director, AHD  
30 Concur: Anne Helzer, Municipal Attorney  
31 Concur: Kent Kohlhase, P.E., Municipal Manager  
32 Respectfully submitted: Dave Bronson, Mayor