



Municipality of Anchorage
Animal Control Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
August 22, 2024



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

Members Present:

Pamela Schamber, Raylene Griffith, Matthew Hall, Timothy Ebben, and Sandy Potter.

Members Absent:

Cathy Foerster and Jessie Janowski

Staff Present:

Tamiah Liebersbach, Debbie Burks – AHD

Melissa Summerfield, Logan Robinson, Joel Jorgensen, Eric Jonsen—ALPS.

2. **Minutes from July 25, 2024**

Minutes reviewed, approved.

3. **Requested Presentations:**

None.

4. **Persons to be Heard:**

None.

5. **Standing Reports:**

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

Melissa Summerfield Reported:

- As summer comes to a close, we have seen a notable increase in adoptions, particularly among dogs.
- The owner surrender waitlist is performing exceptionally well. For instance, today, nearly 20 individuals sought to surrender their dogs, but only 2 dogs were admitted to the shelter, as the other owners successfully rehomed their pets or accessed alternative resources.
- As the year draws to an end, we are prioritizing efforts to address compassion fatigue within the shelter. We are ensuring that our staff receive the necessary support and resources to navigate the upcoming winter months effectively.

Logan Robinson Reported:

- We have upcoming staff training focused on compassion fatigue and caretaking, specifically addressing some of the more challenging aspects of the job, such as euthanasia. This type of training is common in many shelters and aims to alleviate the emotional burden that can sometimes become overly centralized. Our goal is to help balance that load more effectively.
- Next week, we will be welcoming a new employee to the kennel team.

Joel Jorgensen Reported:

- We have several exciting end-of-summer events planned. As the school year begins, teachers, both new and returning, are eager to schedule field trips to the facility. This is a win-win opportunity, as educating the younger generation often leads to increased adoptions through word of mouth and social media.
- Over the next few weekends (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday), we have adoption events lined up at Petco, Double Shovel, and Alaska Mill and Feed.
- Our vaccine clinic on September 7th has generated strong interest, especially from low-income housing residents. This clinic helps prevent disease spread and supports pet owners.
- Friends of Pets is tentatively sponsoring another vaccination clinic on October 5th at Spenard Rec Center.
- UAA invited our staff to a bone marrow conference next week, which provides great community outreach opportunities—and bringing dogs helps boost adoptions!
- Last month, we held our volunteer orientation and volunteer appreciation luncheon.
- With all the upcoming events, any additional help would be greatly appreciated!

6. Committee Reports:

Title 17: Sgt. Matthew Hall Reported:

- We are currently assessing whether boarding facilities, including veterinary clinics that offer boarding services, are properly licensed. This effort is aimed at maintaining fairness across all facilities.

7. AHD Staff Reports:

Tamiah Liebersbach - Reported:

- Board Openings: ACAB still has two open seats. If you know anyone interested in applying, let me know, and I can guide them through the process.

- Four board members' terms will expire in October.
- I secured an additional \$5,000 for spay and neuter surgeries, which will fund 64 more spots this year. The delay is due to funding, not the ability to perform the surgeries.
- The Health Department is exploring the cost of a commercial washer and dryer for the shelter. If year-end funds are available, we hope to address this critical need without a capital improvement project.
- We are continuing discussions with assembly leadership on the weather safety tool and hope for an update soon.
- After last week's Title 17 committee meeting, I learned from the state veterinarian that the state does not license or inspect veterinary facilities, which ties into our ongoing boarding license discussions.
- Budget: Today, we presented the Animal Control budget request, which aimed to keep the budget flat. We submitted a contractually required increase and requested \$100,000 for building blueprints to support a capital bond for the ballot.

Group discussion:

- **Title 17:** Many are unaware of the costs and requirements when animals are taken into protective custody, especially when owners don't surrender them. We discussed creating an info sheet outlining the relevant code, requirements, and estimated costs. This sheet would be distributed by APD alongside charging documents. An example form is being drafted for the board to review and discuss.

8. New Business:

None.

9. Old 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, September 12, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at Anchorage Animal Care and Control.
- b. The next Animal Control Advisory Board meeting will be held Thursday, September 26, 2024, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Anchorage Animal Care and Control.

- 12. Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn. Adjourned at 6:40 p.m.