



Municipality of Anchorage  
**Animal Control Advisory Board**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**July 25, 2019**



1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m. by Ms. Hamer. A quorum was present.

**Members Present:** Allegra Hamer, Chair; Mitzi Anderson, Vice-Chair; Timothy Ebben; Michelle Sinnott; Cathy Foerster; Jay Jackson; Pamela Schamber

**Members Absent:** Jennifer Spencer

**Staff Present:** Michael Tierney, Anchorage Health Department (AHD); Kristin Troxell, AHD; Myra Wilson, Animal Licensing and Placement Services (ALPS), Laura Atwood, ALPS

2. **Minutes from the June 27, 2019 Meeting:** Ms. Sinnott made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Foerster. Minutes were approved as written.
3. **Requested Presentations:** None.
4. **Persons to be Heard:** None.
5. **Standing Reports:**

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

Dr. Wilson and Ms. Atwood reported on June 2019.

The numbers of stray cats and owner surrendered dogs received by AACC has increased during 2019. The number of stray cats increased by 160 and owner surrendered dogs increased by 100. In response to the increase in stray cats received AACC has been sending out public messages requesting owners not let their cats outside and to spay and neuter. Most stray cats are brought to AACC by members of the community as opposed to office pickup. The top reason for owner-surrendered dogs is the family is moving and can't take the dog with them. There was an increase in the number of animals coming in from the MatSu Valley recently because the MatSu Animal Shelter was at full capacity and citizens were being redirected to the AACC. This was being done without the MatSu Animal Shelter director's knowledge and has been corrected. AACC typically does not accept animals from outside the MOA, but in extreme cases they will make exceptions. There is nothing that prevents anyone from dropping an animal in the night drop.

There is a national program called “Rehome” that allows community members that need to adopt out their pet to advertised, screen, and interview potential adopters. This program provides individuals with an alternative to bringing them to AACC. The on-line program provides owners with suggested questions to ask a potential adopter and creates a contract for the owner and the adopter. The AACC Customer Service provides the program information to clients when they call in with a request to rehome a pet. AACC has added a link to the Rehome website on their adoption page.

Intake numbers continued to increase during June 2019. During June 2019 AACC took in 478 animals compared to 417 in June 2018. The YTD increase in the total animal intakes increased by 347 animals compared to last year. The total number of animals received YTD 2019 was 2,548 compared to 2,201 in 2018. The number of cats received during June 2019 was 205 compared to 164 in June 2018. The number of dogs received during June 2019 was 220 compared to 202 in 2018. The number of other animals received during June 2019 was 53 compared to 51 in 2018. The percentages claimed and adopted animals are holding steady. In June 2019 the percentage of animals claimed was 50% and the percentage adopted was 66%. The percentage of animals claimed YTD as of June 30<sup>th</sup> is 49% and the percentage of animals adopted YTD is 67%.

The total number of licenses sold has been increasing. In June 2019, 546 licenses were sold compared to 509 in June 2018. The number of licenses sold YTD as of June 30, 2019, was 3,404 compared to 2,852 in 2018. The number of spay and neuter surgeries completed YTD as of June 30, 2019, was 204 compared to 242 YTD in 2018. The total number of requests for service during June 2019 was 604 compared to 547 during June 2018. The number of requests for service YTD was 2,717 as of June 30, 2019, compared to 2,541 during the previous year. The increased service calls included increased calls for loose animals, animal welfare checks, and animal bites. The unusually hot weather may be a contributing factor.

The number of classified animals remained very close between 2019 and 2018. There were 29 animals classified YTD June 2019 and 28 animals classified YTD June 2018. There were 310 animal bites YTD in June 2019 compared to 289 animal bites YTD in June 2018. The number of citations issued increased between 2019 and 2018; the total number of citations issued in YTD 2019 was 822 compared to 549 YTD 2018. Many of the citations were due to animals not having immunizations and not being licensed.

Ms. Wilson will introduce Capt. Lizz Gray at a future ACAB meeting.

#### Community Outreach:

- Reduced-fee cat adoption event: Reduced the adoption fee of adult cats to \$27 as all kennels in the public area were full and cats were waiting in the back to be moved out for adoption. Started the day with 25 cats. At close, 22 cats had been adopted. Jackie Purcell from KTUU stopped by to do a Facebook Live on her own Facebook page. She paid \$20.00 toward each of the next 5 adoptions so those adopters only had to pay \$7. Grant funds and Friends of Pets paid for the immunizations and microchips for those cats. The remaining 3 cats were adopted over the next two days.

- AACC hosted volunteers from The Listening Post, a community-service organization who offers compassionate listening services.
- Held a Kitten Social Hour at Providence Health & Services' Horizon House (an assisted living facility for seniors).
- Shelter Cat Storytime: Volunteers read animal-themed books to children and led an animal-related project. The children, in turn, read to the cats in the classroom. Wednesdays are for 4-7-year-olds and Sundays are for 8-10-year-olds.
- Held monthly pet food and supplies give-away.
- Staffed a table at Anchorage Downtown Partnership's Summer Solstice Festival.
- Presented with Whisper "Whisper Says Be Safe Around Dogs" to four campfire groups: two at Denali Montessori and two at Abbott Loop Elementary.

#### Media Requests:

- KTVA sent a photographer to cover the reduced-fee cat adoption event. Talked about the importance of the event due an increased numbers of cats in the shelter and how the event was going. A few adopters were interviewed.
- KTVA 11 Daybreak Adopt-a-Pet: Adoptable pets are featured either by video or photos on Friday mornings. There is a Caption Contest photo on the AACC Facebook page on Thursday. The hosts of Daybreak pick and feature the winner on Friday's show.
- Mix 103.1 – Weekly show on Wednesday's at 8:30 a.m. includes both on-air time and Facebook Live with an adoptable animal.

#### Facebook:

- Facebook followers – 16,144 as of June 30, 2019.
- Top five Facebook posts (1) Parakeet in night drop and thievery (2) Livingston the ram, (3) Rooster in a stroller, (4) Will cats and dogs get along?, and (5) Name our cats: breakfast cereals theme.

#### Articles:

- Anchorage Health Department's "Health Beat" newsletter: Adopting a cat during Adopt-a-Shelter Cat month.
- Senior Voice article about Kitten Social Hour at the Horizon House.

Instagram: 238 followers

## 6. **Committee Reports:**

- a. **Off-Leash Dog Area Committee – (Cathy Foerster)** – Ms. Foerster reported at South Dog Park they have added gravel trails from the parking lots to the fenced dog areas. There is no funding available to finish the fencing around the entire dog area, but the small dog area has been fenced. Parks and Recreation are receiving complaints about people not cleaning up after their dogs on the playground. New trails have been built at Folker Park. Ms. Foerster will contact

Parks and Rec to determine if there are plans for an off-leash dog park included in the Folker Park upgrades.

- b. **Title 17 Review Committee – (Mitzi Bolanos)** – The committee met during July 2019 and continued discussing leash law in public places with an emphasis in parks and on the trails. They are working on drafting language revising when voice control should be permitted and when control by leash is necessary. This involves determining events in public places that warrant allowing dogs to be off-leash, such as agility events.

Mr. Tierney gave a presentation on the proposed Title 17 changes at the Health Policy meeting. Assembly members had questions about the language for examples of inadequate shelter and the bond requirement. The committee is holding workgroup sessions with Assembly members to work through the appropriate language for these items. The next work session is scheduled for July 26, 2019, @ 9:00 a.m. The ordinance, AO 2019-91, has been introduced at the Assembly and the public hearing is currently scheduled for September 10, 2019.

## 7. **DHHS Staff Reports:**

Michael Tierney, AHD – After the Health Policy Committee Meeting on July 17, 2019, there was a 30-minute work session on July 19, 2019. At the end of the 30-minute discussion, it was suggested to meet as a working group by Assembly Member Quinn-Davison. The workgroup consisted of Assembly Members Austin Quinn-Davidson, Suzanne LaFrance, and Christopher Constant; ACAB Title 17 Committee, MOA Civil Law, and AHD representatives. The workgroup will meet on Friday mornings for the next two to three weeks. The purpose of this group is to work through the language and any issues with the proposed changes to Title 17.

Mr. Tierney suggested being proactive in the future and seek Assembly feedback on proposed Title 17 changes before they are introduced as a formal document. The Health Policy Committee meeting recordings are available on the MOA Assembly website.

8. **Old Business:** None.

9. **New Business:** None.

10. **Persons to be Heard on Meeting Topics:** None.

## 11. **Informational Items:**

- a. Assembly work session July 26, 2019, @ 9:00 a.m. at the Anchorage Health Department 4<sup>th</sup> floor conference room located at 825 L Street.
- b. Ms. Foerster and Ms. Sinnott will not be available for the August 2019 ACAB meeting.
- c. Next Title 17 Review Committee meeting will be held Thursday, August 8, 2019, at 11:30 a.m. at the Anchorage Health Department 4<sup>th</sup> floor conference room located at 825 L Street.

d. Next ACAB Meeting will be held Thursday, August 22, 2019, at 5:30 p.m. in the Animal Care and Control classroom located at 4711 Elmore Rd.

11. **Adjournment:** Ms. Foerster made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ms. Anderson. With no objections, the meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.