SUSTAINABLE ANIMAL CONTROL REVIEW COMMITTEE
491 E. PIONEER AVENUE
HOMER, ALASKA

JANUARY 21, 2016
THURSDAY 5:15 PM
CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM

NOTICE OF MEETING
REGULAR MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

4. RECONSIDERATION

5. SYNOPSIS APPROVAL

A. Approval of the Meeting Synopsis of January 7, 2015 — Page 3

6. VISITORS

7. PUBLIC HEARING

8. PENDING BUSINESS

A. Volunteerism
B. Grant Possibilities
C. Shelter Advisory Committee
D. Homer City Code Chapter 20, Animals — Page 7
   i. Soldotna City Code Chapter 6 — Page 21
   ii. Kenai City Code Chapter 3 — Page 31

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Boarding Agreement Form — Page 35
   i. Sundog Boarding Contract and Information Sheet
B. Standard Operating Procedure — Page 39
C. Draft Memorandum to Council — Page 57

10. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Written Comments – Bess, Sedor, Smith/McLane, Post — Page 61

11. COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE
12. COMMENTS OF CITY STAFF
13. COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE
14. ADJOURNMENT

Sustainable Animal Control Review Committee

January 7th, 2015

Members: Francis Roberts, William Hutt, Sherry Bess, Casey Moss, Dorothy Sherwood

Representation by the City of Homer: Melissa Jacobson

1. Call to order – 5:15
2. Agenda Approved by Sherry, seconded by Dots
3. Public Comments – N/A
4. Reconsideration – N/A
5. Approval of Synopsis – Sherry moved to approve, seconded by Will
6. Visitors – N/A
7. Public Hearing - None
8. New Business
    A. Volunteerism – Sherry presented a copy of her "suggested procedures for cat volunteers." Almost finished the dog procedures will provide them next meeting. Diagram of cage layout will be added to the single cat cage section.
    B. Shelter OSHA Compliance Standards – Sherry reviewed all the sides. Working through safety data sheets. Updating safety kit, adding eye wash. Labeling spray bottles.
    Will – Looking further into OSHA consultation?
    Dots – Working with Sherry to update things around shelter. Best to postpone OSHA check until known things are updated.
    C. Storage of Shelter Items – Memorandum: not feasible to bring in building, will continue to rent storage unit
    Sherry – 1/3 less in unit, will continue to work on clearing it out
    This can be removed from agenda
    D. Grant Possibilities – Hasn't been looked into further, working with Sherry on options.
    E. Shelter Advisory Committee – Sherry would like the group to meet quarterly staring in April. Would include 2 members of Homer Animal Friends, 2 from

shelter, 1-3 vets, any members of the city if they want to, and a Homer Police Department rep (Will agreed to do it).

Dots – Any way to get recommendations to city?

Francie – Contractor initiated committee reports to city council

Dots – Possible locations? Library, shelter, conference room

9. New Business
   A. Homer City Code Chapter 20, Animals
      i. Last update of this section of the code was in 1988. Everything should be looked over and updated
      ii. Talked to Sgt. Shealy about Dog vs. Dog attacks being more than a ticket
      iii. Dots would like more on animal cruelty
      iv. License year starts on January 1st of even years
      v. Add a one-time city license fee?
      vi. Dots would like something in code regarding tethering in the backs of vehicles cross reference with traffic code. Has seen lots of dogs come through the vet clinic that have fallen out of the back of vehicles.
      vii. 20.08.050
         1. Sherry would like to increase length of time for boarding up to 3 weeks as 7 days is very short.
         2. Casey commented that that is a very long time to be boarded. When family had boarding business they tried very hard to not keep animals that long as it is very stressful on animals, recommended house or pet sitters.
      viii. 20.12.010 – ½ price license fee in odd years
      ix. 20.20 – Need better definitions for dangerous vs. vicious, vicious has more than one definition
      x. 20.08.120
         1. Will - who sets adoption criteria?
         2. Sherry – Every shelter has its own criteria. Some people do get denied. Contract says it's at her discretion.
         3. Francie – Code says only stipulation for not adopting is to a known violator of animal control ordinances or animal abuser.
      xi. 20.32 – Penalty provisions need to be increased.
   B. Parameters of Boarding Animals at the Shelter

Covered while discussing the code. Will update the boarding agreement.

10. Informational Items – N/A
11. Comments of the Audience
    A. Cindy Nelson – Advisory Committee who heads it?
       Code Revisions – Update 20.32.020 and 20.32.030, Maybe a well exam for 20.28.010, Need written rules, less personal opinion for 20.08.120.
    B. Judy Price – Founder and rescue coordinator of Clear Creek Cat Rescue. Have suggestions for change in 5 areas. Believe every rescue and shelter can be improved.
       i. Adoption Fees – Standard adoption fees clearly posted so people know before they attempt to adopt
       ii. Volunteers – Realize they take time but are essential in making things run smoothly
       iii. Rescue – Would like agreements between fosters/rescues and shelter so they become partners and can offer options after an animal has been in the shelter for long periods of time.
       iv. Return of Animals to Owners – Create a found animal book or posting to a website so owners can locate and get their animals back faster.
       v. Adoptions – Open to more adopters which would allow relief of pressure at shelter and more revenue and more forever homes.
    C. Brian Smith – We have an amazing shelter. Thought we had a good working relationship with Clear Creek. We go for placement over euthanasia. Can't paint this shelter with the same brush as other shelters. Cindy has her own issues. I will be glad when this witch-hunt is over.
12. Comments of City Staff – Sounds like we are done with OSHA and we will start working on the memorandum next meeting.
13. Comments of Task Force –
    A. Casey – Would like to add website to next agenda. Thank you everyone.
    B. Will – Working on website. Thanks to everyone for comments.
    C. Sherry – Good reasons for adopting how we do
    D. Dots – Committee is doing good things for the animals of Homer
    E. Francie -
14. Adjournment, next meeting January 21, 2016 at 5:15 pm.

Title 20

ANIMALS[1]

Chapters:

1. For statutory provisions authorizing cities to license and regulate animals, see AS 29.35.210.

Chapter 20.04

ANIMALS – GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sections:

20.04.010 Intent.

The intent of this title is to control the running at large of animals within the City and to protect the general health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City with respect to the keeping of animals. [Ord. 88-1, 1988].

20.04.020 Definitions.

For the purposes of this title, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them by this section:

"Animal" means all domestic or domesticated members of the animal kingdom.

"At large" means an animal is at large when it is off the premises of the owner or keeper and is not in the company of or under the control of the owner or keeper, a member of his family or other person to which the animal has been entrusted, by leash, cord or chain; provided, however, that such animal shall be deemed to be under control when under competent voice control while actively engaged in an organized activity which requires that the animal not be physically restrained.

"Dog" means any dog (Canis sp.), whether neutered or nonneutered male, spayed or unspayed female.

"Kennel" means any person, group of persons, or corporation breeding, buying, keeping, selling, or boarding three or more dogs over the age of four months, whether for profit or not.

"Large animal" means all cattle, horses, sheep, goats, swine or similar species commonly kept as livestock.

"License collector" means the license collector who shall be the City Clerk, and shall include a person designated by the Clerk to act in her behalf.

License Year. A "license year" shall commence on January 1st of each even-numbered year.

Prior Conviction. A "prior conviction" involving any animal owned or controlled by the person cited within a 24-month period preceding the offense date of the pending citation shall constitute a prior offense for penalty enhancement purposes.

"Quarantine" means the isolation of a dog or other domestic animal in a substantial enclosure so that the dog or other domestic animal cannot be subject to contact with other animals or unauthorized persons.

Vicious Animal. Any animal which when unprovoked has bitten or attacked a human being shall be deemed vicious. [Ord. 88-1, 1988].

Chapter 20.08

GENERAL ANIMAL REGULATIONS

Sections:

20.08.010 Dogs at large – Impoundment procedure.

a. It is unlawful to allow any dog to run at large, whether licensed or not, within the corporate limits of the City.

b. Dogs not wearing a collar and tag found running at large, anywhere within the City limits, may be taken up by a peace officer or Animal Control Officer and impounded in the shelter designated by the Chief of Police as the area animal shelter, and there confined in a humane manner for a period of not less than 72 hours, unless claimed by the owner, and may thereafter be disposed of in a humane manner if not claimed by their owners, or held for adoption. Any impounded dog not wearing a City license shall not be released from the area animal shelter unless evidence of a valid license is provided or, if the animal is unlicensed, upon payment of licensing fee to the Animal Control Officer at the shelter, for which fee the Animal Control Officer shall deliver a "dog license voucher" to the animal owner or his agent. The dog license voucher shall serve as a temporary 30-day license, and at any time during the 30-day period, the voucher may be surrendered at City Hall in exchange for a current license. In addition, either proof of rabies vaccination or payment of rabies vaccination fees to the shelter (in exchange for a 30-day rabies vaccination voucher valid at any licensed veterinarian in the City) shall be required prior to release from impoundment.

c. Dogs wearing a collar and tagged found running at large within the City limits shall be impounded for not less than 120 hours, subject to the alternative provisions of subsection (d) of this section, and if not claimed by the owner or given up for adoption shall then be disposed of in a humane manner. Immediately upon impounding any animal, a peace officer or Animal Control Officer shall make reasonable effort to inform the owner of the conditions under which he may regain custody of such animal if such animal's owner is known to the officer. No impounded dog shall be released from the animal shelter unless all impoundment fees shall have been paid.

d. When a dog is found running at large within the City limits and its ownership is known to the peace officer or Animal Control Officer so finding it, the officer, in addition to or in lieu of impounding the dog, may cite the owner of the dog to appear in the District Court of the State to answer to a charge of violation of this section.

e. Penalties. Persons convicted of violation of this section (dog at large) shall be sentenced as follows:

No prior convictions	Class A infraction
1 prior conviction	Class B infraction
2 prior convictions	Class C infraction
3 or more prior convictions	Class D infraction

[Ord. 88-1, 1988].

20.08.020 Animals on harbor floats.

No person shall have in his possession, keep, or maintain any animal on the floats of the Homer small boat harbor, unless the animal is kept under physical control by leash or chain at all times. The person in control of the animal shall be responsible for the cleanup of the animal's excrements and litter caused by the animal. Failure to properly clean up after the animal will result in appropriate cleanup labor charges (minimum of one-half hour) being assessed against the owner and/or person in control of the animal. Penalty: Class A infraction. [Ord. 88-5 § 1, 1988; Ord. 88-1, 1988].

20.08.030 Nuisance animals.

a. No person may permit an animal which he owns or has control over to annoy another person by interfering with the latter's sleep, work or reasonable right to peace and privacy by making repeated or continued noise.

b. The owner of any animal shall not permit the same to defecate, dig upon or injure private property owned by another person or public property or a public thoroughfare.

c. The owner of any animal shall not permit the same to frequently or habitually growl, snap at, jump upon or otherwise menace, injure or frighten persons within the City. This provision does not apply to persons who are trespassing or otherwise in violation of the law.

d. Any animal in violation of this section may be humanely restrained by any person, and that person shall, within 24 hours of the animal's capture, and between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., surrender the animal to the Animal Control Officer or his designee. Animals impounded under this section may be destroyed or otherwise disposed of by the City if they are not claimed by the owner or his agent within five days of impoundment. If the owner of the animal is known or can reasonably be determined by the City, the owner or his/her agent shall be notified of the impoundment by the City prior to the destruction of the animal. Service of notice to the owner shall be by (1) telephone call or (2) personal contact by any City employee or, if the owner cannot be reasonably contacted by either (1) or (2), a written notice shall be placed on the main front door of the residence of the owner or his agent, if the residence is known or can reasonably be determined.

e. Impoundment of Nuisance Animals. Any peace officer may impound a nuisance animal from private property if necessary to abate that nuisance, if that officer cannot locate the owner of the animal in response to his knocking on the door of the residence. Animals impounded as nuisance animals shall not be released from impound without payment to the City of an impound fee (for each animal) and any other fees incurred by the City in caring for, feeding, transporting, or housing the animal.

f. Prosecution Authorized. The City may, in addition to charging the impoundment fee, elect to prosecute the animal owner or his agent for the violation of this section by the issuance of a citation compelling their attendance in court.

g. Penalty Provisions. Persons cited for violation of this section are punishable as follows:

1. First offense, Class A infraction;
2. Second offense, Class B infraction;
3. Third offense, Class C infraction;
4. Fourth or subsequent offenses shall be punishable as a Class D infraction. [Ord. 13-17(S) § 25, 2013; Ord. 88-1, 1988].

20.08.040 Cruelty to animals.

No person shall torture or ill-treat any domestic animal, whether belonging to himself or any other person. No person shall poison any domestic animal or distribute poison in any manner whatsoever with the intent or for the purpose of poisoning any domestic animal, willfully injuring or disfiguring a domestic animal, except, that any officer or agent of the United States or of the State or of the City who exposes poison to be taken by predatory animals shall be exempt from the provisions of this section. Violation of this section is a Class E infraction. [Ord. 88-1, 1988].

20.08.050 Dog boarding.

Dogs may be boarded at the Homer Animal Shelter providing the following requirements are met:

a. The owner and dog must reside inside the City.

b. The owner pays boarding fees for a maximum of seven days, the fee doubling for any time over that period in which the owner does not claim the dog from the animal shelter.

c. The owner provides proof from a veterinarian that all rabies, parvo and distemper shots are current and a fecal examination for parasites has resulted in acceptable limits.

d. The owner must exhibit proof of current City dog license.

e. The owner will reserve boarding space 24 hours in advance of desired boarding time, boarding being on a space-available basis.

f. Any dog determined by animal shelter personnel to be sick, injured, vicious or in heat may be denied boarding.

g. Prior to boarding the owner must execute a boarding agreement to which all the requirements will be listed along with a statement holding the

City harmless and waiving liability claims against the City.

h. All boarding costs shall be paid in full prior to the animal being released to its owner or designee.

i. The City will not board dogs if any licensed private commercial boarding kennel is operating within the City and that facility has space available for animal boarding. [Ord. 88-1, 1988].

20.08.060 Shelter and feeding fees.

The City Clerk or designee is authorized to and shall collect for the City shelter fees and feeding fees for each animal under impoundment. [Ord. 88-1, 1988].

20.08.070 Large animals.

a. Any cow, horse, sheep, goat, swine or other similar animal commonly kept as livestock is subject to impound when at large, or left unattended on any public street or public property.

b. Any impounded large animal not claimed by the owner or his agent within 10 days shall be sold at public auction with public notice as provided in AS 09.35.140 (personal property). Prior to sale, the Animal Control Officer shall make a reasonable effort to notify the owner of said animal.

c. It shall be unlawful for any person to allow any large animal to run at large within the corporate limits of the City. Any animal in violation of this subsection may be impounded and/or the owner may be cited into court. Penalty: Class A infraction for first offense, Class E infraction second and subsequent offenses. [Ord. 88-1, 1988].

20.08.080 Female animals in heat – Confinement required.

Every female dog or cat in season shall be kept confined in a building or secure enclosure, or in a veterinary hospital or boarding kennel, in such a manner that such female dog or cat cannot come in contact with another dog or cat except for planned breeding purposes. Penalty: Class B infraction. [Ord. 88-1, 1988].

20.08.090 Abandonment of animals.

No animal shall be purposely abandoned within the City limits. Penalty: Class B infraction. [Ord. 88-1, 1988].

20.08.100 Maintenance and sanitation.

A person who owns an animal shall maintain all structures, pens and yards where he keeps the animal, and all areas adjacent thereto, in a clean and sanitary condition and free from objectionable odor. Penalty: Class B infraction. [Ord. 88-1, 1988].

20.08.110 Animal/vehicle accident.

It shall be unlawful for any person to deliberately injure or run over any domestic animal by means of a motor vehicle. Any person accidentally injuring or striking a domestic animal shall immediately stop and render (or summon) medical aid for the injured animal. Additionally, that person shall immediately notify the owner of the animal or the Police Department of the accident and animal injury. Penalty: Class B infraction. [Ord. 88-1, 1988].

20.08.120 Adoption of shelter animals.

To minimize the destruction of animals, the City shall make unclaimed animals and animals turned in to the shelter for disposal available for adoption by any adult person except as restricted herein. The City Clerk or designee thereof is authorized to collect an adoption fee for each animal. This fee may be waived by the Animal Control Officer at his discretion in cases of indigent persons on whom the fee would constitute an extreme hardship. The licensing fee and rabies vaccination fees shall not be waived. The Animal Control Officer is authorized to deny adoption to any person of whom that officer has personal knowledge that the person is a frequent violator of the animal control ordinances, or who has a history of animal abuse, neglect, or inhumane or unsanitary housing conditions. Frequent violation for purposes of this section shall mean three or more convictions in the last 24 months. [Ord. 88-1, 1988].

20.08.130 Disposal of animals at request of owner.

The Homer Animal Shelter will accept cats and dogs for disposal (or adoption) from the animal's owner; provided, that the owner executes a written agreement with the City wherein that person certifies that they are the lawful owner of the animal, they request it be disposed of by the City, and that person agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the

City and its agents from any claims arising from the destruction of the animal. Animals received for disposal, if not adopted, shall be disposed of in a humane fashion. Nonresidents of the City shall pay a disposal fee for each dog or cat delivered to the Shelter under this section. [Ord. 88-1, 1988].

Chapter 20.12

LICENSING OF ANIMALS

Sections:

20.12.010 License required – Issuance.

No owner or harborer of any dog shall fail or neglect or refuse to obtain a license for such dog, as provided in this chapter. All dogs kept, harbored, or maintained in the City shall be licensed and registered if over four months of age. Dog licenses shall be issued by the animal shelter on payment of a license tax for each dog. The owner shall state, at the time application is made for such license, his name and address and the name, breed, color and sex of each dog owned or kept by him. Dog licenses shall be issued for a period of two years and shall run from January 1st of each even-numbered year to December 31st of each succeeding uneven-numbered year. For dogs requiring licensing later in the license year, the license fee shall be the same as for a full two years, prior to January 1st of the succeeding odd-numbered year; and thereafter for the remainder of the license period, the license tag shall be one-half of the full license fee. Penalty: Class A infraction. [Ord. 14-52 § 1, 2014; Ord. 88-1, 1988].

20.12.020 License tag to be worn and displayed.

Upon payment of the license fee therefor, there shall be issued to the owner of a dog a receipt for payment of the license and the tag for each dog so licensed. The tag shall have thereon the years for which it was issued and a corresponding number on the receipt. Every owner shall provide each dog with a collar or harness to which the license tag shall be affixed and shall see that the collar or harness and tag are constantly worn. In case a dog tag is lost or destroyed another will be issued upon payment of a replacement fee. Dog tags are not transferable from one dog to another. Penalty: Class A infraction. [Ord. 88-1, 1988].

20.12.030 Counterfeit tags prohibited.

It is unlawful for a person to counterfeit or attempt to counterfeit a dog tag receipt of payment for the license or certificate of vaccination, or to take from a dog a tag legally placed upon it or place a dog tag upon a dog unless the tag was specifically issued to that particular dog. [Ord. 88-1, 1988].

Chapter 20.16

ANIMAL DISEASE CONTROL

Sections:

20.16.010 Rabies vaccination required.

Every owner of a dog shall have such dog vaccinated against rabies. Upon making an application for a license for any dog, the owner shall furnish a certificate from a licensed veterinarian as proof of this vaccination. Notwithstanding the above, if the City Clerk determines that vaccine and veterinary services are not reasonably available, the City Clerk may issue any dog license without the furnishing of such certificate; provided, however, that the owner of each dog so licensed shall furnish proof of the vaccination to the issuing authority, within 60 days from the issuance of the license, or the license shall be deemed void and the owner in violation of this chapter. [Ord. 88-1, 1988].

20.16.020 Quarantine of rabid animals required.

a. If a dog or other animal is believed to have rabies or to be vicious, or has been bitten by dogs or other animals suspected of having rabies, such dog or other animal shall be confined by a leash or chain in a substantial enclosure on the owner's premises and shall be placed under the observation of a duly licensed physician or veterinarian for 10 days at the expense of the owner. The owner shall notify a peace officer or Animal Control Officer of the fact that this dog has been exposed to rabies, and, at his discretion, the officer is empowered to have the dog moved from the owner's premises and placed under observation at the animal shelter or in a veterinary hospital for the quarantine period at the expense of the owner. (Note: also see 7 AAC 27.020.)

b. It is the duty of the Chief of Police to promptly notify the State Health Department Officer of the location and description of the dog or other animal having rabies or suspected of having rabies; also to supply the State Health Officer with the names and addresses of the persons who have

been bitten, scratched or had any contact with the suspected animal.

c. The Chief of Police or his deputies are empowered to enter upon any private property where a dog or other animal is kept, which dog or animal is alleged to have bitten any person, to inspect, seize and impound such dog under the provisions stated in this chapter. [Ord. 88-1, 1988].

20.16.030 Rabies vaccination voucher authorization.

The Animal Control Officer is authorized to collect fees for, and issue to any dog owner claiming his animal at the shelter who is unable to provide adequate proof of current rabies vaccination, a "rabies vaccination voucher." This voucher shall be valid for 30 days, and within that period shall entitle the bearer to rabies vaccination for the thereon named animal, at any licensed veterinarian agreeing to accept same. The City shall set fees for such voucher at the average rates currently being charged by all veterinarians licensed within the City. In the event any person is unable to locate a veterinarian willing to accept the City vaccination voucher, the voucher fee shall be returned to that person after the voucher has expired and after that person provides evidence that he/she has otherwise obtained a rabies vaccination for the affected animal. The City is authorized to redeem all valid vouchers submitted by licensed veterinarians on a monthly basis for the standard fee set thereon. [Ord. 88-1, 1988].

Chapter 20.20

DANGEROUS ANIMALS

Sections:

20.20.010 Permitting animals to bite prohibited.

a. It is unlawful for any person to permit any animal to bite any person, unless the person bitten is engaged in the commission of a criminal act. It is an affirmative defense that the victim of the bite provoked the animal into biting; or that the person bitten was trespassing on the premises totally enclosed by chainlink fencing, or similar density fencing, and the bite occurred on these premises by an animal housed therein. Penalty: Class C infraction.

b. The City shall serve notice on the owner of any animal which, unprovoked, has bitten a person. Such notice shall advise the owner that the animal is now a vicious animal and is subject to destruction if at large. [Ord. 88-1, 1988].

20.20.020 Destruction prohibited pending quarantine.

No person shall kill or maim any animal which is known to have bitten any person or animal unless consent to do so has been granted by the Chief of Police. Nothing in the provisions of this chapter shall be construed to prohibit the killing of a dog or other animal where such destruction is necessary for the protection of life and limb, or for the purpose of preventing a further attack. One of the purposes of the enactment of this chapter is to enable the Chief of Police to observe any dogs and other animals which have bitten any person or animal in order to determine whether the same are infected by rabies. Penalty: Class E infraction. [Ord. 88-1, 1988].

20.20.030 Vicious animal.

It is unlawful for any person to permit any vicious animal to:

a. Be at large within the limits of the City;

b. Knowingly or negligently permit any vicious animal to bite any person unless the person bitten is in the act of committing a criminal offense;

c. Be housed or transported in or on any motor vehicle within the City limits unless said animal is muzzled to prevent the animal from biting any person. (Exception: vicious animals locked in the passenger compartment of a motor vehicle need not be muzzled if the windows are adequately closed to prevent the animal from exiting the vehicle);

d. Leave premises owned or controlled by the animal's owner or his agent (except as authorized in subsection (c) of this section) unless the animal is securely muzzled.

Any animal in violation of subsection (a) or (b) of this section shall, upon conviction of the owner or the agent, for that offense, be immediately seized by the City and held for destruction. Penalty: Class D infraction. [Ord. 88-1, 1988].

20.20.040 Administrative hearing procedures.

All animals seized pursuant to HCC 20.20.030 shall be held in impound pending an administrative hearing concerning their potential destruction. The administrative hearing shall be conducted as follows:

a. An Administrative Hearing Board shall be convened consisting of the City Manager (who shall chair the proceedings), the Chief of Police, and one member of the City Council (selected by the City Manager).

b. A notice of administrative hearing shall be served upon the animal's owner or his designee under the procedures set for service of summons in a civil action. The notice shall specify the date, time, and location of the hearing. The hearing may not be less than 72 hours following the service of the hearing notice on the animal owner or his designee.

c. The hearing shall consider all information pertinent to the specific violation of HCC 20.20.030 which initiated the impoundment and hearing process, and may additionally consider any information concerning prior violations or incidents with this same animal, as well as any information concerning the animal owner's or his designee's prior violations of the Homer animal ordinances with any other animal.

d. The hearing shall address and enter its formal findings as to whether:

1. The animal is a vicious animal under HCC 20.04.020;

2. The owner or designee thereof failed to use all reasonable precautions to control his animal and protect the public;

3. The circumstances of this incident under consideration constitute a danger to the public.

e. If a majority of Board members find in the affirmative as to all three of the provisions of subsection (d) of this section, the Hearing Board shall order the animal destroyed. The owner or designee, if present at the hearing, shall be verbally notified of the findings and order at the conclusion of the hearing. Written findings shall also be prepared and served upon the owner or designee. If the owner or designee is not present at the hearing, written findings and destruction order shall be served on that person as soon as possible following the hearing.

f. Absent an affirmative finding by the Hearing Board as to one or more of the provisions of subsection (d) of this section, the animal shall be immediately released to its owner or designee. The Hearing Board shall, in the event of release under this provision, prepare a written notice which shall be delivered or mailed to the animal's owner, outlining the Hearing Board's recommendations as to actions that owner should take to prevent future incidents and to protect the public.

g. Any appeal of the Hearing Board's finding and destruction order shall be taken through the Alaska Court System within 10 days of the receipt of said findings and order by the owner. The filing of an appeal will automatically stay the order of destruction pending resolution of the appeal. The animal shall remain in impound at the owner's expense pending resolution of the appeal. [Ord. 88-1, 1988].

20.20.050 Destruction of vicious animal.

Vicious animals to be destroyed upon Administrative Hearing Board order shall be destroyed as follows:

a. The animal shall remain in impound for 10 days following the date the owner (or his designee) is verbally notified of the Hearing Board's deci-

sion, or the date that a written finding and destruction order is served on the owner (or his designee) to allow that person to appeal the destruction order through the courts.

b. If the City is not served with a notice of appeal of the destruction order within the 10-day holding period outlined in subsection (a) of this section, the City shall immediately proceed to humanely destroy the animal. [Ord. 88-1, 1988].

20.20.060 Conditional release of vicious animal.

The City may, at its option, in lieu of destruction of the animal, agree to return the vicious animal to its owner (or his lawful agent) if that person signs a contractual agreement with the City wherein the owner agrees:

a. To immediately remove the animal from the City;

b. Agrees to the immediate seizure and destruction of the animal if it enters the City limits;

c. Agrees to indemnify the City for any and all damages resulting from any act of this animal from the date of the agreement;

d. Any other reasonable provision deemed necessary by the City Attorney. [Ord. 88-1, 1988].

Chapter 20.24

ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY – INTERFERENCE

Sections:

20.24.010 Enforcement.

This title may be enforced by any peace officer. Additionally, a private person may lawfully detain any animal in violation of the City ordinances provided they immediately notify the Animal Control Officer; and surrender the animal to the City Animal Control Officer in compliance with all provisions of HCC 20.08.030(d). [Ord. 88-1, 1988].

20.24.020 Interference with enforcement officer prohibited.

No person shall interfere with, oppose or resist any peace officer in the performance of his duties as provided in this title. Penalty: Class D infraction. [Ord. 88-1, 1988].

20.24.030 Unauthorized removal of animals.

No person shall remove or release any dog or other animal from the animal shelter, animal control vehicles, municipal animal traps or from any other official custody without first obtaining permission to do so from the Animal Control Officer or any peace officer of the City. Penalty: Class D infraction. [Ord. 88-1, 1988].

20.24.040 Tampering with City live traps prohibited.

No person may tamper with any City-owned or City-operated animal live trap. "Tampering" means removal or destruction of bait(s), tripping the door closure mechanism, obstructing the entryway so as to prevent animals from entering the trap, or the physical removal of the trap from its

position. Penalty: Class D infraction. [Ord. 88-1, 1988].

20.24.050 Removal of quarantined animals prohibited.

No person, either by himself or agent, shall remove from the area animal shelter or any veterinary hospital, or from any other place, any animal which has been quarantined without the consent of the Chief of Police or Animal Control Officer. Penalty: Class D infraction. [Ord. 88-1, 1988].

20.24.060 Furnishing false information.

It is unlawful for any person to knowingly provide false information on any license application, adoption or disposal agreement, boarding agreement, citation, or any other official document being executed pursuant to this title. Penalty: Class C infraction. [Ord. 88-1, 1988].

Chapter 20.28

KENNELS

Sections:

20.28.010 Kennels – Generally.

a. No kennel shall be maintained or operated in such a manner as to constitute a nuisance to persons owning or occupying land in the vicinity of the land on which the kennel facility is operated or maintained.

b. Any complaint that a kennel is in violation of this chapter shall be referred to the Animal Control Officer. The Animal Control Officer may inspect the facilities to determine whether such kennel constitutes a health hazard, nuisance or otherwise violates this chapter. Such inspection shall be completed within seven days of the complaint.

c. If the Animal Control Officer determines that the kennel complained of is a health hazard, violates this chapter, or is a public nuisance, or that dogs may not be safely kept therein, the owner shall be notified and shall be granted a reasonable length of time within which to remedy any deficiencies found and to comply with requirements of this chapter.

d. If, upon a second inspection after the expiration of the time granted in the notice, the kennel is still in violation, the Animal Control Officer may then revoke any license previously issued for such kennel. [Ord. 88-1, 1988].

20.28.020 Kennel license – Required.

a. No person shall own or operate a kennel without first obtaining a license. Application for such a license shall be made to the Animal Control Officer.

b. Before a license shall be issued, the Animal Control Officer shall inspect the kennel. Upon finding that the kennel facility is in compliance with this chapter, the City Clerk shall issue the license.

c. Such inspection of the kennel facility is to determine that the facility:

1. Has adequate shelter for the animals from the elements;

2. Has adequate provisions for keeping the animals on the owner's premises; and

3. Has adequate provision for keeping the premises in a sanitary condition. [Ord. 88-1, 1988].

20.28.030 Kennel license fee.

The license fee for a kennel shall be for a two-year period, to become due in the same year as the license fees provided for in HCC 20.12.010; however, the fee for the remainder of the license year after the first of July of odd-numbered years shall be one-half of the full fee. The kennel fee shall be in lieu of a license fee for each individual animal; however, all other requirements that would normally apply to license an animal shall apply. Each animal kept at the kennel shall be considered licensed under the kennel license so long as it remains at the kennel. Penalty: Class B infraction. [Ord. 88-1, 1988].

Chapter 20.32

FEES AND PENALTIES

Sections:

20.32.010 Animal control fee schedule.

a. The City licensing and shelter fees shall be set by City Council resolution, shall be included in the City of Homer's fee schedule and may be amended by City Council resolution.

b. All impounded animals must be properly licensed and have current rabies vaccinations prior to being released. Owners of impounded animals will be charged a daily boarding fee for every full day that the animal stays in the shelter. Vaccination and license fees shall be the owner's responsibility.

c. Animals being adopted shall be spayed or neutered, properly licensed and vaccinated. Associated fees shall be the responsibility of the adopting party.

d. The City shall charge for any additional expense incurred by the City in the actual impoundment, transportation, medical care, housing or feeding of any animal; which expenses shall be paid in full prior to the animal's release.

e. Disposition of Fees. All license and shelter fees collected pursuant to this chapter shall be paid into the general fund of the City. [Ord. 01-54, 2001; Ord. 88-1, 1988].

20.32.020 Penalty provisions.

a. Penalties for violation of any section of this title shall be as follows, unless otherwise noted:

Class A infraction	$25.00
Class B infraction	$50.00
Class C infraction	$100.00
Class D infraction	Shall be punishable by a fine of not less than $100.00 nor more than $300.00. The unsuspended portion of the fine shall not be less than $100.00.

Class E infraction	Punishable under the general penalty provision of this code, HCC 1.16.010.

b. Each act of violation and every day upon which such violation occurs constitutes a separate offense.

c. The court may, in addition to the penalty imposed, order the defendant to pay restitution to the City for any costs necessarily incurred by the City in caring for, feeding, transporting, or housing the animal. [Ord. 88-1, 1988].

20.32.030 Civil penalties.

In addition to or as an alternative to the criminal penalty mentioned in HCC 20.32.020, any person violating any provision of this title shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than $500.00. Each and every day that such violation continues shall be deemed a separate and distinct violation. In addition, a civil injunction or temporary restraining order may be obtained in order to obtain immediate compliance with the provisions of this chapter. The City may seek an award of reasonable attorney fees and costs from the court in prosecuting such an action. [Ord. 88-1, 1988].

Title 6 - ANIMALS

Chapters:

Chapter 6.04 - ANIMAL CONTROL[1]

Sections:

Footnotes:
*--- (**1**) ---*
***Editor's note—**Ord. No. 2010-040, §§ 1, 2, adopted Jan. 12, 2011, repealed the former Ch. 6.04, §§ 6.04.010—6.04.440, and enacted a new Ch. 6.04 as set out herein. The former Ch. 6.04 pertained to similar subject matter and derived from Prior code §§ 9.04.0l0—9.04.220; Ords. 163, 335 and 379; Ord. No. 448, § 1(part), adopted 1987; Ord. 587, § 1(part), adopted 1994; Ord. 684, §§ 4—6, adopted 1999.*

6.04.010 - Definitions.

In this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

A. "Animal control officer" means any person appointed by the chief of police to impound animals within the city. The animal control officer may be any police officer when enforcing the regulations of this chapter.
B. "Animal shelter" means any premises designated by the city manager for the purpose of impounding and caring for animals.
C. "At large" means any animal that is off the property of its owner and not under the direct control of a competent person.
D. "Chief of police" means the chief of police of the Soldotna Police Department or his or her designee.
E. "Commercial kennel" means any premises where buying, selling, training, boarding or breeding of four or more dogs, cats, or other animals, or a combination of animals, over the age of three months, takes place.
F. "Confined" means restricted or enclosed within a fence, enclosure, or building.
G. "Neutered male" is any animal which has been operated upon so as to prevent it from being fertile
H. "Owner" or "person" means any person, group of persons, partnership, firm, trust or corporation owning, having an interest in, or having control, custody or possession of any animal.
I. "Restraint" means that an animal is controlled by a leash or other means.
J. "Spayed female" is any female animal which has been operated upon to prevent the possibility of conception.
K. "Stray" means any animal whose owner is unknown or which no one seeks or claims.
L. "Unconfined" means not restricted or enclosed within a fence, enclosure, or building.
M. "Vicious dog" is any dog, which unprovoked, has ever bitten or attacked a human being or another domesticated animal.

(Ord. No. 2010-040, §§ 1, 2, 1-12-2011)

6.04.020 - Licensing of dogs.

A. No person shall own, keep or harbor any dog over three months old within the city limits unless such dog is licensed as herein provided. Application for such license shall be made to the animal control officer or such agents as the chief of police shall designate, and shall state the name and address of the owner and the name, breed, color, age and sex of the dog. At the time of making the application for the license, the license fee shall be paid and a numbered receipt and a numbered tag for the dog shall be issued to the owner. No license or tag shall be issued unless evidence is given of a veterinarian's statement in writing to the effect that the animal for which the license is sought has received a current immunization for rabies.

No person shall use a dog license tag or receipt for an animal other than for the dog for which the license tag or receipt was issued.

B. A yearly license fee shall be set by resolution for all dogs. Owners showing proof of having their dog neutered or spayed within 12 months of paying their fee will be refunded a proportional portion of the annual fee. Such proof may consist of, but shall not be limited to, a statement or receipt from a medical authority showing that the appropriate procedure has been performed.

C. Licensing fees will be charged according to a fee schedule associated with this title.

D. All licenses required by this chapter shall expire on December 31 of the year of issuance. Applications for licenses may be made up to 30 days prior to the start of the New Year and renewal licenses must be obtained prior to February 1.

E. The animal control officer may conduct an animal census within the city at such intervals, as deemed appropriate. The animal control officer may authorize those who take the census to accept applications for, and to issue, licenses in the field under Section 6.04.020 of this chapter.

F. Any dog subject to license which is not licensed shall be considered a nuisance. Any such unlicensed dog shall be impounded pursuant to Section 6.04.040 of this chapter and if not redeemed pursuant to the provisions of Section 6.04.050B., or if found vicious pursuant to the provisions of Section 6.04.060, may be destroyed.

G. Any person owning a seeing eye dog, a hearing service dog, or other service dog shall be exempt from the license fee payment requirement of this section. Upon application, annually, to the animal control officer and upon presentation of evidence from an appropriate medical authority that the animal for which the license is sought has received immunization for rabies as provided for in Section 6.04.020A. of this chapter, every owner of a service dog certified by a recognized service animal institution shall receive, at no charge, a city dog license.

(Ord. No. 2010-040, §§ 1, 2, 1-12-2011)

6.04.030 - Tag and collar.

A. Upon complying with the provisions of Section 6.04.020, there shall be issued to the owner a tag stamped with the number and the year for which it is issued.

B. In the event that a license tag issued for a dog is lost, the owner may obtain a replacement tag upon payment of a fee to be set by resolution.

C. All dogs shall wear and display a license tag at all times except when confined upon the immediate premises of the owner's residence.

(Ord. No. 2010-040, §§ 1, 2, 1-12-2011)

6.04.040 - Control of animals; impoundment.

A. It shall be the duty of the chief of police, or his or her designee, to attempt to impound any animal or animals found in violation of this chapter.

B. Any animal impounded under the provisions of this chapter shall be held in the city animal shelter for a period of at least 72 hours, and unless redeemed prior to the expiration of that period, may be made available to the public through adoption or destroyed in a humane manner.

C. Upon receiving and impounding an animal, the animal control officer shall make a reasonable effort to notify the animal's owner of the impoundment and the conditions by which the animal may be redeemed. Upon redemption of an animal by its owner, the animal control officer shall issue a written notice that upon the fourth impoundment in any 12-month period, the animal will not be subject to redemption and may be made available for adoption or be destroyed in a humane manner.

D. Any animal found to be maintained or ignored by its owner or keeper in such a manner as that the animal is likely to suffer injury, malnutrition, intense and prolonged pain, or to suffer in any other manner, shall

be impounded.

E. No person may tie, stake or otherwise confine an animal in such a manner that the animal may enter a public right-of-way, easement, or public place. Such animals shall be subject to immediate impound.

F. When any law enforcement officer or animal control officer finds it necessary to take an animal into protective custody to preserve the animal's health or safety or to preserve public health or safety, such animal shall be taken to the to the city's animal shelter.

(Ord. No. 2010-040, §§ 1, 2, 1-12-2011)

6.04.050 - Redemption of impounded animals from the animal shelter.

A. The following animals shall not be subject to redemption:
   1. Any animal that has been impounded four times in any one 12-month period.
   2. Any animal that, in the judgment of the animal control officer and a licensed veterinarian, should be destroyed for public health or humane reasons.

B. Subject to subsection A. of this section, the owner of an animal may redeem the animal from the animal shelter by executing a written statement of ownership, furnishing a license tag as required if the animal is not already licensed, and paying an escalating fee to be set by resolution, plus an additional fee per day maintenance for each day, or fraction thereof, of impoundment.

C. Impoundment fees will be based upon frequency of use of impound facilities by household not by animal. In addition to impoundment and boarding fees, the owner of any animal shall also pay any other costs actually and reasonably incurred by the animal control officer in maintaining the animal, including, but not limited to, necessary medical care.

D. An animal not subject to redemption under subsection A. of this section will, at the discretion of the city, be made available for adoption or will be destroyed in a humane manner. Prior to adoption or destruction of such an animal, the animal control officer shall issue a written notice to the owner of the animal, if known, stating that the animal will be made available for adoption or will be destroyed seven days from the date of the notice. The notice shall describe the owner's right to a hearing on the matter with the chief of police or his or her designee.

E. An owner aggrieved by this section may, within five days of the date of the notice provided by the animal control officer under subsection D. of this section, apply for a hearing before the chief of police or his or her designee. Upon timely application for a hearing, the chief of police, or his or her designee, shall hold a hearing to determine whether the animal may be redeemed under this section. The decision of the chief of police, or his or her designee, is final and may be appealed only to the superior court.

F. Adoption fees will be paid at the animal control shelter at the time the animal is chosen. The animal control officer will transport the animal to a local veterinarian where sterilization and vaccinations will be done. Ownership of the animal will be transferred from the city to the new owner at the time the animal is released from the veterinarian.

G. All animals shall be held for the required time before being adopted. All adoptions are final; the previous owner may not reclaim the animal once it has been adopted. Any veterinarian bills, liabilities or claims that are incurred after the adoption will be the sole responsibility of the new owner.

H. The animal control office shall not disclose the identity of a person who adopts an animal from the animal control shelter unless the animal control officer determines that the public health, safety, or welfare requires the disclosure.

I. Adoption may be denied to any person or agency when there is a reasonable belief by the animal control officer that the health and welfare of the animal or the public is at risk. Reasons for denial of adoption may include, but are not limited to: use in live animal research; person(s) wishing to adopt has a history of or is known to be involved in animal fighting or other abuse and cruelty to animals; repeated adoption

without cause; history of repeatedly allowing animals to run at large within the city; the animal's age, general health or temperament.

J. The animal control officer may transfer animals held by the city to the humane society, another animal control facility, SPCA or a rescue group, after legal detention has expired and the animal has not been claimed by its owner.

K. The animal control officer shall make reasonable effort to notify the owner of any animal bearing traceable identification within the first business day after the animal is captured and inform the owner of the conditions under which he may regain custody of such animal. The animal control officer may cite the owner of the animal which has been impounded for being found running at large.

(Ord. No. 2010-040, §§ 1, 2, 1-12-2011)

6.04.060 - Vicious dogs.

A. No person shall permit any vicious dog of which he or she is the owner, keeper, caretaker, or custodian to be unconfined unless securely muzzled and led by a leash.

B. The owner of a vicious dog shall post a sign, warning of the vicious dog along the front lot line of the property and building and/or enclosure where the animal is kept.

(Ord. No. 2010-040, §§ 1, 2, 1-12-2011)

6.04.070 - Animals at large.

A. It shall be unlawful for the owner of an animal to allow it to run loose or be at large upon the streets, alleys, or public places of the city. It shall also be unlawful for the owner of an animal to allow it to run loose or be at large upon the private property of another without the consent of the private property owner. All animals loose and at large may be impounded.

B. No person other than the animal control officer or another law enforcement officer performing their duties under this chapter may release an animal from restraint without its owner's consent, except to preserve the animal's life at which time this action shall be promptly reported to the owner or the animal control officer.

C. No animal shall be purposely abandoned within the city limits. This includes leaving animals unattended outside of the animal shelter.

D. An officer may pursue an animal onto private property in the course of effecting an impoundment. Should it be deemed necessary, they may employ the use of cage traps as a means of capturing an animal.

E. When the public safety is in jeopardy, the animal control officer or any law enforcement officer or their designee may capture or destroy an animal by any means.

F. When an animal is found running at large and its ownership is known, such animal need not be impounded, but the animal control officer may cite the owner of the animal to appear in the proper court to answer a charge of violation of this chapter.

G. Any cow, horse, mule, sheep, goat, swine or other animal commonly kept as livestock, are subject to impound when left unattended on any public place or right-of-way. Large animals are also subject to zoning regulations under Title 17 Zoning.

   1. Boarding charges in accordance with the fees schedule associated with this chapter shall be due for each day or partial day a large animal is kept. In addition, an impound fee will be imposed for the first time a large animal is impounded. This fee shall escalate for each subsequent time the animal or other animals of the household are impounded within a 12-month period. A citation may be issued for repeated impoundment of animals.

   2. If unclaimed after 72 hours, the animal shall be placed for adoption or euthanized at the discretion of the animal control officer.

(Ord. No. 2010-040, §§ 1, 2, 1-12-2011)

6.04.080 - Objectionable animals or birds.

A. Any person owning, keeping, possessing, or harboring any animal or bird shall not suffer or permit the same to repeatedly disturb a neighborhood or any number of persons by frequent or prolonged barking, howling or other noises.

B. Any person owning, keeping, possessing, or harboring any animal or bird shall not suffer or permit the same to dig upon or injure public property, a public thoroughfare, or private property not lawfully occupied by such person.

C. Any person owning, keeping, possessing, or harboring any animal shall promptly remove and dispose of all feces left by the animal on any public property, public thoroughfare, or private property not owned by such person or lawfully occupied by such person.

D. The owner of any animal or bird shall not permit the same to frequently or habitually growl, snap at, jump upon or otherwise menace, injure or frighten persons within the city, unless those persons are trespassing upon the owner's property.

E. Any animal chasing, harassing or otherwise disturbing or injuring wild game may be immediately impounded by the animal control officer and may be immediately impounded by a private citizen.

F. No wolf or wolf hybrid shall be permitted within the city limits.

G. An animal found in violation of any part of this section may be impounded, even if restrained on public or private property, if the owner is not immediately available.

(Ord. No. 2010-040, §§ 1, 2, 1-12-2011)

6.04.090 - Other annoyances prohibited.

A. The owner shall keep their animal under restraint at all times. It shall be prima facie evidence that an animal is not under restraint if said animal bites or attacks a human being or when unprovoked bites another animal or trespasses upon private property without the private property owner's consent.

B. No person shall harbor or keep any animal or bird affected with a contagious or pestilential disease.

C. No person may sell an animal which the person knows to be diseased, injured, or otherwise physically defective without disclosure to the buyer of the nature of the disease, injury or defect.

D. A person who owns an animal shall maintain all structures, pens and yards where they keep the animal and all areas adjacent thereto, in a clean and sanitary condition and free from objectionable odor.

E. No person shall maintain an animal having or showing symptoms of an infectious or contagious disease without keeping the animal confined in a secure enclosure or building and providing adequate medical care.

F. Every female dog or cat that is ovulating shall be kept confined in a building or secure enclosure, or in a veterinary hospital or boarding kennel, in such a manner that such female animal or cat cannot come in contact with another animal or cat except for planned breeding purposes.

(Ord. No. 2010-040, §§ 1, 2, 1-12-2011)

6.04.100 - Biting animals; rabies control.

A. Every animal that bites a person shall be promptly reported to the animal control officer or police department and shall upon capture be securely quarantined for a period of ten days. Such animal shall not be released from quarantine, except by permission of the chief of police or his designee. The quarantine may, at the sole discretion of the chief of police or his designee, be at the premises of the owner, at the animal shelter or, at the owner's option and expense, in a veterinary hospital of his or her choice. In the case of stray animals, such quarantine shall be at the animal shelter.

B. The owner, upon demand made by the animal control officer, shall immediately surrender any animal which has bitten a human or which is suspected as having been exposed to rabies, for supervised quarantine. The expense of such quarantine shall be borne by the owner. Such animal may be reclaimed

by the owner if adjudged free of rabies and not vicious.

C. When there is reason to believe an animal under quarantine is rabid, such animal shall be humanely destroyed; and if a quarantined animal dies, the animal control officer shall be notified immediately; and the required biological specimen from the animal shall be forwarded to the state health laboratory for pathological examination.

D. When there is a positive diagnosis of rabies, the city may recommend an area-wide quarantine. After public notice of an area-wide quarantine is given by the chief of police, no animal shall be taken into the streets or permitted to be in the streets during such period of quarantine. During such quarantine, no animal may be taken or shipped from the city without written permission of the chief of police.

E. In the event there are additional positive cases of rabies occurring during the period of the quarantine, the period of area-wide quarantine may be extended for whatever additional period in the judgment of the chief of police such quarantine is needed.

F. No person shall kill or cause to be killed any rabid animal or any animal suspected of having been exposed to rabies, except as herein provided, nor shall any person remove such animal from the city without the permission of the chief of police.

G. The carcass of any dead animal exposed to rabies shall upon demand be surrendered to the police department.

H. The chief of police shall direct the disposition of any animal found to be infected with rabies.

I. No person shall fail or refuse to surrender any animal for quarantine or destruction as required herein when demanded to do so by the animal control officer.

J. Any animal not restrained in compliance with the quarantine order, or which is known to have been removed from or has escaped from the quarantine area, may be captured or destroyed by the animal control officer, any law enforcement officer or person designated by the chief of police.

(Ord. No. 2010-040, §§ 1, 2, 1-12-2011)

6.04.110 - Immunization for rabies.

A. No person shall own, keep or harbor any dog or cat over three months in age within the city limits unless the dog or cat has received a current immunization for rabies by a licensed veterinarian of their choice. However, no dog or cat need be vaccinated where:

   1. A licensed veterinarian has examined the animal and certified that at such time vaccination would endanger its health because of its age, infirmity, debility, illness or other medical consideration; and
   2. Such exception certificate is presented to the animal control officer within five days of examination. However, the animal shall be vaccinated against rabies as soon as its health and age permit. Unvaccinated animals must be confined to the owner's property or a veterinary facility.

B. Reporting required:

   1. The owner of an animal that has bitten a person, shall promptly notify the animal control officer or any law enforcement officer of the incident.
   2. A person who has been bitten by an animal shall promptly notify the animal control officer or another law enforcement officer of the incident.
   3. A physician or other practitioner of medicine who treats a person for an animal bite shall promptly report to the animal control officer or another law enforcement officer the name and address of the person treated and such other information as may aid in the control of rabies.
   4. A licensed veterinarian shall promptly report to the animal control officer every animal that he examines and suspects to be infected with rabies.

(Ord. No. 2010-040, §§ 1, 2, 1-12-2011)

6.04.120 - Records.

A. Accurate and detailed records shall be kept by the city as to:
   1. Licenses issued;
   2. Animals impounded;
   3. Disposition of all animals into the custody of the animal control officer;
   4. All bite cases reported; and,
   5. All moneys received.

(Ord. No. 2010-040, §§ 1, 2, 1-12-2011)

6.04.130 - Exemptions.

A. The licensing requirements of this chapter do not apply to any animal belonging to nonresidents of the city and which is kept within the city for 30 days or less. However, all such animals shall at all times while in the city be kept within a building, enclosure, or vehicle, or be under the direct restraint and control of the owner.
B. No impoundment fees or penalties mentioned in this chapter apply to an owner of a service animal so long as the animal is being used as a service animal and the animal has been certified by a recognized service animal institution.
C. Animal humane society shelters, animal shelters, clinics and premises operated by licensed veterinarians for the care and treatment of animals are exempt from the provisions of this chapter except where duties are expressly imposed.

(Ord. No. 2010-040, §§ 1, 2, 1-12-2011)

6.04.140 - Interference with officers; investigations.

A. No person shall interfere with, hinder or obstruct any law enforcement officer or animal control officer in the performance of any duty required by this chapter. No person shall seek to release any animal in the custody of the animal control officer except as provided in this chapter.
B. For the purpose of discharging the duties imposed by this chapter and to enforce its provisions, the animal control officer is empowered to enter upon any premises upon which an animal is kept or harbored and to demand the exhibition by the owner of such animal and the license for such animal.
C. Where the animal control officer or any law enforcement officer finds the action necessary to prevent an imminent and substantial danger to the public health, safety or welfare, and upon obtaining prior approval of the chief of police, they may authorize an inspection permitted by subsection A. of this section to be made without a warrant.

(Ord. No. 2010-040, §§ 1, 2, 1-12-2011)

6.04.150 - Enforcement.

Nothing contained in this chapter shall be construed to prevent the city from entering into a contract with a person or agency for the purpose of enforcing any provision of this chapter.

(Ord. No. 2010-040, §§ 1, 2, 1-12-2011)

6.04.160 - Penalties.

Violations of this chapter shall subject the violator to civil penalty as provided in Chapter 1.08 of the Soldotna Code of Ordinances.

(Ord. No. 2010-040, §§ 1, 2, 1-12-2011)

6.04.170 - Disposal of animals at owner's request.

Upon execution of a consent agreement holding the city harmless from any liability, an owner of an

animal may request the animal control officer to dispose of the animal. Upon execution of such agreement, the animal becomes the property of the city and, at the option of the city, may be disposed of by adoption or by destruction of the animal in a humane manner. The city shall always retain the right to refuse disposal of any animal.

(Ord. No. 2010-040, §§ 1, 2, 1-12-2011)

6.04.180 - Disposal of dead animals.

A. No person may deposit any dead or fatally sick or injured animal upon any public or private place or into any body of water except as provided in this chapter.
B. No person shall fail to immediately dispose of any dead animals whether it be their own or found on their property, either by proper burial or by depositing the covered animal in a sanitary landfill.
C. No person shall carry or convey any dead animal through or upon any street, alley or public place unless the same is so covered that no part of it is exposed to view and no odors can emanate therefrom.

(Ord. No. 2010-040, §§ 1, 2, 1-12-2011)

6.04.190 - Commercial kennel licenses; requirements.

A. A commercial kennel license is required for any person(s) wishing to operate a commercial kennel as defined by this chapter. Commercial kennel licenses and fees are shown in the fee schedule associated with this title. See additional kennel requirements in Title 17, Zoning.
B. Application for a kennel license shall be made with the city clerk and approved by the animal control officer upon finding that the facility complies with the following regulations:
    1. A health hazard does not exist;
    2. A nuisance does not exist for occupants of land in the vicinity:
    3. All animals have been properly vaccinated;
    4. Adequate provisions have been made to shelter the animals;
    5. Adequate provisions have been made for keeping the animals confined on the owner's property;
    6. Adequate provisions have been made to keep the premises in a sanitary condition, and
    7. The use complies with the Soldotna Code of Ordinances, Title 17, including a conditional use permit if required by the zoning district.
C. The animal control officer, after receiving a complaint, may inspect or cause to have inspected the premises of a kennel to insure continual compliance with the licensing requirements. If the owner or keeper of the kennel is found to be in violation of this section, the animal control officer may suspend or revoke such license.
D. If there is a change of ownership of a kennel on the same premises, the new owner may have the kennel license transferred to his name upon application and payment of a transfer fee. Kennel licenses are assumed to be with the owner and the premises. Transferring of a kennel to a different location within the city shall require a new kennel license and shall meet the kennel requirements of this title and shall also meet requirements of Title 17. Kennels may be inspected by city staff at any time.

(Ord. No. 2010-040, §§ 1, 2, 1-12-2011)

6.04.200 - Cruelty or injury to animals.

A. No person may intentionally injure, torment, poison, provoke, or otherwise abuse an animal.
B. No person may intentionally kill an animal by injury, torment, poison, suffocation, decompression or other forms of abuse of the animal.
C. No person shall maintain an animal without providing food, water, and shelter adequate to preserve the animal's health, or abandon an animal where it will not be provided proper food, water, shelter, and care.

D. No person shall maintain an animal showing symptoms of infectious or contagious disease without keeping the animal confined in a building or secure enclosure and under proper care.

E. No person may cause an animal to fight another animal or human being, whether for amusement of themselves or others, or for financial gain; or train, or keep for the purpose of training, an animal for exhibition in combat with an animal or human being. Nor shall any person permit his premises to be used for the purposes described in this subsection.

F. No person may use a trap or snare within the city limits that can kill, or injure a domestic animal except under the supervision of a state or federal wildlife agency addressing a specific nuisance wildlife issue. In addition, the animal control officer must be notified prior to any trap(s) being set and provided with the name and contact information of any person who will be working the trap(s), the type of trap(s) and the location of trap(s) being used.

G. No person may allow any animal which he owns to molest or harass wild or domesticated animals or fowl.

H. The driver of a vehicle involved in an accident resulting in injury to an animal shall stop the vehicle as close to the scene of the accident as safely possible and inform the owner of the animal of the accident and injury to the animal, if the animal's ownership is readily ascertainable. In the event the animal owner is not readily ascertainable, the driver shall inform the animal control officer or police department as quickly as reasonably possible of the accident and injury to the animal.

I. Live animals that, in the opinion of the animal control officer, a law enforcement officer, or a licensed veterinarian, are so seriously ill or injured that medical treatment would needlessly prolong the animal's suffering, may be put to death immediately, provided that the animal bears no identification of ownership. If the animal bears identification, an attempt will be made to reach the owner, but if that is unsuccessful and the opinion of the animal control officer, a law enforcement officer, or a licensed veterinarian is that the animal is suffering and too seriously ill or injured to recover, that animal may be humanly euthanized.

J. This section does not apply to: Impounding, destruction, or other disposition of an animal in a humane manner as authorized by law; killing or injuring an animal where necessary to protect a human being or domesticated animal from death or bodily injury; or the humane destruction of an animal by its owner or the owner's authorized agent.

(Ord. No. 2010-040, §§ 1, 2, 1-12-2011)

Chapter 3.05 GENERAL PROVISIONS

3.05.010 Definitions.

As used in Title 3:

(1) "Animal" means all domestic or domesticated members of the Kingdom Animalia.

(2) "At large" means not under restraint.

(3) "Cat" means a domestic or domesticated member of the family Felidae.

(4) "Current rabies vaccination" means a vaccination:

(A) As specified in the "compendium of animal rabies vaccines" prepared by the Rabies Subcommittee of the National Academy of Sciences and by the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, Inc. (1978);

(B) Administered in accordance with State law; and

(C) Evidenced by a rabies vaccination certificate in a form approved by the State Division of Public Health.

(5) "Dangerous animal" means any animal which due to improper or inadequate supervision or control has done an act harmful in its character to human beings or animals, regardless of whether the act is done in a playful or hostile manner.

(6) "Dog" means a domestic or domesticated member of the family Canidae.

(7) "Kennel."

(A) "Kennel, commercial" means premises where four (4) or more dogs over four (4) months of age are owned, kept, boarded, bred and/or offered for sale.

(B) "Kennel, private" means premises where four (4) or more dogs over four (4) months of age are owned or kept for private enjoyment.

(8) "Impoundment" means:

(A) The seizure of animals by the methods set forth in KMC 3.25.010(d).

(B) Seizure of a vicious animal.

(9) "Officer" means a person charged by law with the duty to enforce provisions of this title.

(10) "To own" an animal includes having title, keeping, harboring, and having custody or control of an animal.

(11) "Person" includes individual, joint venture, partnership, corporation, or unincorporated association.

(12) "Restrain" means:

(A) Physical confinement, as by leash, chain, fence, or building; or

(B) Under competent voice control when an animal is engaged in an activity or form of training requiring that it not be physically confined; or

(C) Under competent voice control when an animal is on the property of its owner.

(13) "Sterile" means rendered incapable of reproduction by surgical operation.

(14) "Vicious animal" means an animal that has done an unreasonable act harmful to human beings or animals which act is done in a hostile manner. Any animal which has been twice adjudged a dangerous animal by a court of competent jurisdiction, whether by a plea of no contest or guilty or by trial, shall be considered vicious for purposes of penalties imposed by KMC 3.05.060(d).

(Ords. 935, 1185, 1522-92, 2519-2010)

3.05.020 Animal Control Office.

(a) There shall be an Animal Control Office which, except as this title provides otherwise, shall be the entity responsible for the administration of this title.

(b) There shall be in the Animal Control Office an Animal Control Shelter for the keeping of animals which the Animal Control Office impounds or otherwise assumes custody of under this title.

3.05.030 Animal Control Officers.

(a) There shall be a Chief Animal Control Officer who shall be appointed by the Chief of Police.

(b) The Chief of Police may appoint one (1) or more deputy animal control officers.

(Ord. 1731-97)

3.05.040 Powers and duties of animal control officers.

(a) The Chief Animal Control Officer shall administer the Animal Control Office.

(b) The Chief Animal Control Officer and any deputy animal control officer have the power and duty to:

(1) Enforce the provisions of this title in the field and in the case of deputy officers, under the supervision of the Chief Animal Control Officer;

(2) File complaints and serve summonses and complaints for violations of this title.

3.05.050 Records.

(a) The Chief Animal Control Officer shall maintain complete and detailed records of:

(1) The issuance and revocation of licenses under this title;

(2) All animals brought into the custody of the Animal Control Office by impoundment or otherwise;

(3) The disposition of all animals in the custody of the Animal Control Office;

(4) Reports required by KMC 3.30.010 and the Animal Control Office's investigations thereof;

(5) Investigations of violations of this title; and

(6) Monies received for fees and charges imposed by this title.

(b) The Animal Control Office shall not disclose the identity of a person who adopts an animal from the Animal Control Shelter unless the Chief Animal Control Officer determines that the public health, safety, or welfare requires the disclosure.

3.05.060 Penalties and remedies.

(a) Except as this section provides otherwise, a person who violates a provision of this title, term, condition, or provision of a license issued hereunder, or a City regulation promulgated under this title shall, upon conviction, be subject to a fine as provided for violations in KMC 13.05.010.

(b) In addition to, or as an alternative to the penalty aforementioned, any person violating any provisions of this title shall be subject to a civil penalty as provided in KMC 13.05.010. Each and every day that such violation continues shall be deemed a separate and distinct violation. In addition, a civil injunction or temporary restraining order may be obtained in order to obtain immediate compliance with the provisions of this chapter.

(c) The City shall seek an award of reasonable attorneys' fees and costs from the court in prosecuting such an action.

(d) Any animal adjudged a vicious animal by a court of competent jurisdiction, may be destroyed by the City of Kenai Animal Control Department upon order of such court or through the consent of the animal's owner.

(Ords. 935, 1146, 1185, 1240)

3.05.070 Citation procedure.

(a) An officer may serve a summons and complaint in the form of a citation upon a person

for violating a provision of this chapter, or a term, condition, or limitation of a license issued hereunder, or a City regulation promulgated under this title.

(b) A summons and complaint issued under this section shall contain a notice directing the person to whom it is issued to appear to answer to the charge in the District Court for the Third Judicial District of the State of Alaska at Kenai.

(c) An officer who issues a summons and complaint under this section shall deposit the original and a copy of the citation with his immediate superior who shall forward the citation to the District Court for the Third Judicial District of the State of Alaska at Kenai. Thereafter, the summons and complaint may be disposed of only by official action.

(d) A summons and complaint in the form of a citation that fulfills the requirements for a complaint under the District Court Rules of Criminal Procedure promulgated by the Supreme Court of the State of Alaska shall be deemed a lawful complaint for the purpose of prosecuting a violation of this title.

(e) Mandatory Court Appearance shall be required:

(1) For a violation of KMC 3.10.020(c).

(2) For a violation of KMC 3.10.070(g).

(3) For all cruelty charges under this code.

(4) Upon second citation of all other provisions of Chapter 3.10 in a twelve (12) month period.

(Ords. 935, 1185, 2537-2011)

3.05.080 Regulations.

The Chief Animal Control Officer may promulgate regulations, necessary and convenient to the administration of this title, including, but not limited to:

(a) Providing the form of applications, licenses, and other documents used in the administration of this title.

(b) Providing the form, recording, and control of citations to be used under KMC 3.05.070, and the form and control of citation books.

(c) Declaring exceptions to KMC 3.10.050 to allow animals in the street for the purpose of participating in races, shows, or other temporary sporting or festive events, and to exclude non-participating animals from the vicinity of such events.

(d) Establishing fees and charges as authorized by this title.

(e) Establishing procedures for offering animals for adoption.

(f) Interpreting the provisions of this title.

3.05.090 Inspections.

(a) During normal business hours, an officer may, upon presentation of proper identification, inspect premises where animals are kept to determine whether the animals are being kept in compliance with this title.

(b) Where the Constitution of the United States or of the State of Alaska so requires, the officer shall obtain an administrative search warrant authorizing an inspection and exhibit the warrant to the person in charge of the premises before conducting the inspection. The officer may apply to the trial courts of the State of Alaska to obtain an inspection warrant, stating in the application the name and address of the premises to be inspected, the authority to conduct the inspection, the nature and extent of the inspection, and the facts and circumstances justifying the inspection. Warrants issued under this section shall be returned within ten (10) days.

(c) Where the Chief Animal Control Officer finds the action is necessary to prevent an imminent and substantial danger to the public health, safety, or welfare, he or she may authorize an inspection permitted by subsection (a) of this section to be made without a warrant upon obtaining the prior approval of the City Attorney and City Manager and in either one of their absences, the Mayor.

(d) The Chief Animal Control Officer may conduct an animal census of the municipality at such intervals as he or she deems appropriate. The Chief Animal Control Officer may authorize those who take the census to accept applications for, and to issue, licenses under KMC 3.15 and 3.20 in the field.

3.05.100 Fees.

(a) In addition to any other fee required by this title, the City may charge a fee for the following, which fees or charges shall be as set forth in the City's schedule of fees adopted by the City Council:

(1) Kennel facility license;

(2) Dog license, sterilized animal;

(3) Dog license, unsterilized animal;

(4) Dog license tag, replacement plus duplicate;

(5) Insertion of microchip;

(6) Animal boarding;

(7) Animal impoundment.

(b) Animal boarding and impoundment fees shall be set based upon the type and weight of the animal boarded. Animal impound fees shall also be set so that the fee for the second impoundment and third impoundment of the same animal within a twelve (12) month period from the first impoundment shall be progressively higher than the previous impoundment.

(c) The fee for redeeming an impounded animal shall be the sum of the impoundment and boarding fees as set forth in the City's schedule of fees, provided that if, within thirty (30) days of paying the impoundment and boarding fees, the owner of an impounded animal presents proof that the animal has been sterilized, the Animal Control Officer shall refund to the owner the impoundment fee for the animal. The refund for sterilization shall be allowed only once for any animal. Before redeeming an animal from impoundment, the owner must also pay for any shots required for the animal and pay for and obtain a license if the animal was not previously licensed.

(d) Any impounded animal which by reason of its size, strength, dangerous propensities, or other characteristics cannot reasonably be kept in the Animal Control Shelter may be reclaimed upon payment of an impoundment fee as set forth in the City's schedule of fees plus the actual costs reasonably incurred by the Animal Control Office in impounding, transporting, and keeping the animal.

(Ords. 935, 1522-92, 2197-2006, 2528-2011)

View the mobile version.

S U N D O G B O A R D I N G

CHRIS & PAT M0SS

BOX 1115 HOMER, AK 99603 907-235-5666

This lodging contract entered into the date set out above between Sundog Boarding (hereinafter called "Sundog") and _____, the owner of the pet(s) to be cared for or an authorized agent of the pet(s)' owner (hereinafter called "Owner/Agent) and for valuable consideration, the parties agree as follows:

SUNDOG AGREES: To exercise due and reasonable care while pet(s) are in care and custody of Sundog.

OWNER/AGENT AGREES: To hold Sundog harmless and without liability in the event of loss or damage from disease, death, running away, theft, injury to persons, other pets or property, said injury caused by Owner/Agent's pet(s) or other unavoidable causes;

- That, if pet(s) become ill and, in Sundog's opinion, require prompt medical attention, Owner/Agent authorizes Sundog to consult with a Veterinarian and follow the Vet's recommendations for treatment of the pet(s).
- To promptly pay the actual expense incurred by Sundog for said veterinary care, medical attention and transportation necessary for same, being reasonable in amount.
- To guarantee payment of this bill. If for any reason this bill is not paid when presented and is placed in the hands of an attorney for collection, Owner/Agent agrees that a reasonable fee will be added for attorney's fees and such other costs the Court may allow. Interest will be charged on overdue bills at the rate of nine per cent (9%).
- That s/he is the legal owner of the pet(s) or the authorized agent of the pet(s), and that the pet(s) are not mortgaged in any way and have not been exposed to parvo, rabies, distemper or other communicable disease within the last thirty (30) days.

TERMINATION: This agreement may be terminated by either party at any time by giving written notice in person or by registered mail at addresses provided herein.

ABANDONMENT: Parties agree that if pet(s) are not called for within five (5) days after agreed upon time of return, the pet(s) become the property of Sundog, unless other suitable arrangements are made to the satisfaction of Sundog.

ACCEPTED_____ **DATE**_____

(Owner or Agent of Owner)

S U N D O G B O A R D I N G

DATE IN: _____ TIME: _____ am pm DATE OUT: _____ TIME: _____ am pm

NAME: _____

HOME PHONE:_____**WORK** :_____ **CELL**:_____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____ **DESTINATION PHONE**: _____

LOCALCONTACT: _____ **PHONE**:_____

Dog's NAME: _____ DESCRIPTION: _____ AGE: _____

VACCS & DATES: RV_____ DA2_____ BORD_____

Special Concerns: _____

Dog's NAME: _____ DESCRIPTION:_____ AGE: _____

VACCS & DATES: RV_____ DA2_____ BORD_____

Special Concerns _____

Dog's NAME: _____ DESCRIPTION: _____ AGE: _____

VACCS & DATES: RV_____ DA2_____ BORD_____

Special Concerns: _____

PETS' BELONGINGS: _____

_____

_____

Daily Rate: _____ No. of days: _____ = $_____ % Disc: _____

Disc Amount: $_____ Subtotal _____ Sales Tax: _____

TOTAL _____

Explanation of any additional charges: _____

_____

DATE IN: _____ TIME: _____ am pm DATE OUT: _____ TIME: _____ am pm

NAME: _____

HOME PHONE:_____**WORK** :_____ **CELL**:_____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____ **DESTINATION PHONE**: _____

LOCALCONTACT: _____ **PHONE**:_____

Dog's NAME: _____ DESCRIPTION: _____ AGE: _____

VACCS & DATES: RV_____ DA2_____ BORD_____

Special Concerns: _____

Dog's NAME: _____ DESCRIPTION:_____ AGE: _____

VACCS & DATES: RV_____ DA2_____ BORD_____

Special Concerns _____

Dog's NAME: _____ DESCRIPTION: _____ AGE: _____

VACCS & DATES: RV_____ DA2_____ BORD_____

Special Concerns: _____

PETS' BELONGINGS: _____

_____

_____

Daily Rate: _____ No. of days: _____ = $_____ % Disc: _____

Disc Amount: $_____ Subtotal _____ Sales Tax: _____

TOTAL _____

Explanation of any additional charges: _____

_____

COASTAL ANIMAL CARE

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

FOR THE HOMER ANIMAL SHELTER

AND ANIMAL CONTROL

(This SOP has been in effect since 2006

when we first entered into this contract;

The detailed sections on cleaning Cats and Dogs

at the end are new to the written SOP, and simply

memorialize how we clean)

I. General Information

Homer Animal Shelter and Control is the primary provider of animal-related services for the City of Homer. Its principle activities include:

Providing safe and humane shelter for stray and unwanted animals;

Connecting lost companion animals with their homes;

Maintaining a pet adoption program;

Enforcing animal control ordinances;

Educating the community about animal care.

The Homer Animal Shelter has adopted the following policies regarding the operation of the shelter.

Intake Procedures

Impounded, stray, and owner-relinquished pets from inside the Homer City limits will be accepted into the shelter. These pets include domestic animals such as cats, dogs, rodents and reptiles. The shelter does not have adequate facilities for large animals such as horses; therefore, these animals will not be accepted.

Upon entry, an Animal Intake Form will be filled out with as much information as possible. The animal will be inspected for identification, and visible signs of injury, illness, disease or parasites. If signs of a contagious disease are observed, the animal will be placed in isolation. An attempt will be made to immediately notify the owner if there are signs of illness or injury with a stray or impounded animal. A veterinarian will be contacted in the case of a severely injured or ill animal.

Pet Adoption Policies

Animals placed up for adoption will be those that demonstrate socialized, non-endangering behavior and freedom from signs of contagious illness that would threaten the health of other animals or people. Any animal that has bitten a person or shown aggressive behavior toward a person will not be placed for adoption.

A person considering adopting from the Homer Animal Shelter:

- Must be at least 18 years old and be able to provide a valid driver's license or photo ID with date of birth.
- Must be able to provide proof of current residence address.
- If renting, must have the consent of the landlord.
- Must be able to provide proper care for the animal.

Anytime an animal is adopted from an animal shelter, there is a certain risk involved. Each animal will be assessed by the shelter staff upon admission and before being placed up for adoption. The animals are not routinely tested for illness or disease ***(change this to reflect FLV testing for all cats, which we have been doing since May, 2014)*** and are not routinely examined by a veterinarian. An animal may be incubating a disease or have an injury at the time of admission or adoption without showing any clinical signs of illness or injury.

Homer Animal Shelter recommends that each animal adopted be examined by a veterinarian no later than two weeks after placement. Should this examination reveal that an animal is unsuitable for placement it may be returned immediately to the shelter with a statement from the examining veterinarian. The adoption fees will be refunded.

Animals shall be placed only with adults as primary companions. Dogs shall not be placed for the sole purpose of being guard dogs and cats shall not be placed to live outside only, or for the sole purpose of being mousers. Animals will not be placed with persons who intend to present them as gifts to a second party, other than to a member of the immediate family. The Shelter Director ***(Manager)*** retains the right to refuse placement to an individual or family if release of the desired animal would not be in the best interest of the animal or people concerned.

An animal that is 6 months old or older and not already sterilized must be spayed or neutered within 30 days. A puppy or kitten must be spayed or neutered at 6 months of age ***(or in the case of a large breed dog, an age recommended by the vet).*** A spay/neuter fee will be collected at the time of adoption to ensure the pet is sterilized.

The new pet owner will be informed that it may take an animal three weeks or more to adjust to and feel safe and comfortable in new surroundings, particularly since it is already under stress. The initial three weeks of placement will be considered a trial period, during which time the caregiver may return the animal for a full refund of the adoption fees.

Holding Period

Animals that are relinquished by their owner are available for immediate adoption pending a positive evaluation. Animals that are impounded or strays are held for 5 days, excluding weekends and holidays, to give the owner an opportunity to claim the pet. An animal that has not been claimed will be evaluated and either put up for adoption or euthanized.

Animal Reclaim

The owner may be asked to provide:

--proof of animal ownership (license, vet record, photo, etc._)

--proof of rabies vaccination

--proof of license (if applicable)

--valid driver's license or photo ID with date of birth

--proof of current address

Euthanasia

It is sometimes necessary to euthanize animals that cannot be placed. It is the policy of the Homer Animal Shelter to use the best available humane method of euthanasia performed under the best possible conditions by a licensed veterinarian or certified euthanasia technician. However, as long as an animal remains in good health and of good disposition, and the shelter has room for the animal the shelter will house the animal at the discretion of the shelter director (manager).

The Homer Veterinary Clinic staff performs euthanasia at the shelter ***(actually at the clinic for some years now)*** when necessary by means of a lethal injection. All euthanized animals shall be placed in a very heavy plastic bag and taken to the landfill.

II. Fees

(This section is obviously dated, and, as this committee is actively engaged in the recommendation to the City Council of an updated fees schedule, I have not included this section)

III. Animal Handling Procedures

General procedures

- Do not handle animals without completing the necessary training.
- Do not handle the animals without approval of staff on duty.
- Check that exterior doors to rooms or buildings are closed before opening any animal cage.
- Read notes on cages before opening any animal cage.
- Do not open the door or put fingers inside a trap containing an animal.
- Do not approach animals that are fearful or aggressive. Inform staff of any such behavior.
- Block cage openings with your body, keeping face out of reach whenever opening cage doors.
- Take time to talk to animals gently before leashing, moving or lifting.
- Make sure an animal feels secure before lifting him off his feet.
- Do not lean over dogs. Kneel or stoop to attach leashes and collars.
- Do not make steady eye contact with an unknown dog.
- If an animal is loose, close doors and call for assistance. Do not chase animals.
- Cats may prefer to face away from you when being lifted. Cats may also prefer to back into a carrier rather then being pushed in face first.
- Handle only one animal at a time. Be careful about handling cats near other cats. Sometimes aggression to nearby cats is redirected to the handler.
- Always use a leash and proper collar for dogs.
- Do not reprimand shelter animals. It is counterproductive to their learning to trust and approach strangers.

- Return rambunctious or unruly animals to their enclosures and notify staff of any unusual behavior.

- Report sick or injured animals to shelter staff.

- Handle sick animals last to reduce the chance of transmitting disease.

- Wash your hands after handling animals. Wash your hands between animal rooms.

- ALL INJURIES FROM ANIMALS TO PEOPLE MUST BE REPORTED IMMEDIATELY TO STAFF.

IV. Safety Policies

Wet Floors

Due to the need for proper sanitation, all shelter floors have been sealed with paint or a clear sealer. These type floors are generally slippery when wet. Shelter workers should were non-slip type shoes and use caution at all times. Warn visitors of the possibility of wet, slippery floors prior to them entering areas where animals are kept. There is the chance of urine on the floor or a water bowl that has been tipped over. Visitors are not allowed into the dog area until cleaning is done, hoses put away, and the floors are dry. During cleaning 'No Admittance' signs are posted and a yellow 'Caution' sign is placed in front of the door.

Chemical Hazards

Cleaning agents carelessly used can produce skin injury, eye injury or blindness and, if accidentally ingested, death. All chemical should be clearly identified and when not in use, stored in an area away from the public. The manufactures directions for use should be followed and the recommended concentration not exceeded. Do not mix cleaning agents unless you are sure they are safe together.

Rubber gloves and protective eye goggles are provided for your use.

Upset/Angry People

Always be aware of who is entering the shelter. It is not unusual for an animal owner to be upset that someone has made a complaint against their pet, or that the ACO has impounded their dog. Volunteers should not deal with someone who is upset; they are to immediately call for a staff member. If someone gets abusive or threatening, call 911.

Animals

When working with animals, place your safety first.

Only staff will handle quarantined animals. When cleaning any kennel that contains an aggressive or suspected aggressive animal, open the dog door to let the animal go into the outside run, close the door, then the empty run can be safely cleaned.

When handling an aggressive animal, use a muzzle or catch pole. Always muzzle an injured animal (???). Do not attempt to handle a feral cat. It is

always safer for two people to work together when handling a potentially dangerous animal. Use extreme caution. ***(Only staff will handle an aggressive animal)***

Do not led children handle animals unless their parent is present or you have the consent of their parent.

Only qualified adult dog handlers are permitted to take dogs for walks. Only dogs that are put up for adoption are allowed to go for walks.

Cats are never to leave the confines of the shelter during their exercise/socialization time with any volunteer.

Work Injuries

If you receive an injury while working at the Homer Animal Shelter please contact the Shelter Manager within 24 hours ***(immediately)*** to fill out the proper paperwork.

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CATS:
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Procedures for Cat Volunteers

DAILY ROUTINE:

First off, clean up any obvious mess--vomit, hairballs, poop or urine outside the litter boxes, etc. Try to keep the cat rooms pleasant, for both the cats and their visitors.

Top off the communal dry food bowls. Rinse out the water dishes and refill with fresh water.

For the cats in individual cages:

Clean litter boxes and sweep out the cage as needed. Check on the general condition of the cat.

** CLOSE THE KENNEL DOOR BEFORE WALKING AWAY! Even for a few seconds.

Make sure each cat has a full bowl of dry food. Cats under 6 months of age should be fed a kitten kibble.

Empty stale water dish and replace with fresh water. Bowls should be filled to within 1/2" of the rim. Cats need plenty of fresh water to maintain health. If you find a cat's water dish is empty, immediately replace it with a larger one.

NEW CATS:

Make sure the cage is clean.

Each cat should have:

Once piece of bedding

Fresh litter box with litter

Bowl of dry food

Bowl of fresh water

(A stuffed toy!)

The following layout pattern seems to work best for the single cat cages:

In the larger cages, put litter box and food at opposite sides of the cage.

Allow new arrivals some quiet time to adjust to their new environment. A normal house pet may become defensive/aggressive when faced with a barrage of strange sights, sounds and smells. Give them time to know that they are in a safe place, and that no one will hurt them. Try to keep visitors and handling to a minimum until the new cat settles in. Usually within a day or two, the new cat will start to adjust to the routine.

Once they have calmed down, new cats should get a quick look-over for obvious injuries, healing wounds, abscesses or signs of disease. If you notice something that doesn't seem right, be sure to pass it on to Shelter staff.

LITTER:

Scoopable (sand-type) litter:

Lift the box and tilt it towards the back. Shake the box gently up and down. You should see urine balls emerge and float toward the top. Repeat this step, lifting the box and shaking a few times, but this time at the opposite end. At this point the majority of true waste is now on the surface and available for easy removal with the litter scoop.

Remove clumps from the edges and bottom. The trick to removal of clumps stuck to the sides or bottom of the litter pan is lifting the box so that you can tap on the outside of the box and knock off the "clingon" in once piece. Masses stuck to the bottom usually respond to dropping the box from the height of several inches.

Scoop waste into a trash bag.

Replenish the litter. Use enough litter so that the urine will collect into a ball rather than form a clump on the bottom of the box--3 or 4 inches is suggested.

Conventional (clay-type) litter:

Conventional litter does not clump; it only absorbs urine. Solid wastes accumulate at the top of the box and liquids collect in the bottom. To clean clay litter, gently tilt the pan and shake litter to one side; scoop wet litter and repeat at the other end; the used dry litter can be smoothed over the bottom of the box, and a fresh layer of clay litter added over the top. The suggested depth for clay litter is 2 - 3 inches.

Be sure and clean scoop after use - leave it clean for the next person.

DISHES:

Use stainless steel or ceramic bowls for water. Avoid plastic or aluminum dishes as water bowls.

Try to match the size of the dish to the needs of the cat--that is, if the cat is drinking or eating his dishes clean, he needs larger dishes. If two or three cats are sharing a large cage, they will of course need larger dishes than individual cats. It is a simple matter to clean dishes as needed. When a cat leaves the shelter, its dishes should go to the kitchen for sterilization.

BEDDING:

Limit bedding to one item per cage. Excess bedding tends to get dirty fast--being stuffed into the food or water dishes or used as a litter cover. Even with laundry facilities on-site, dirty laundry can pile up if bedding is used indiscriminately. Hair and bits of food or litter can usually be brushed off during cage cleaning and the bedding reused. Bedding that is soiled by feces, urine or vomit should go to the laundry (remove solids to the trash first!).

When cats leave the shelter their bedding should be removed for laundering.

PROTECTION:

As much as we enjoy visitors, we need to do what we can to ensure that both the cats and their visitors have an enjoyable interaction. Caution guests about any cat that you know to be cranky or shy - or possibly not so good with rough handling from children, etc. Scratches and hard feelings may otherwise result.

Discourage rough handling and rough-housing. Some cat toys are not childproof and can be broken or used to injure oneself or others. Be alert for foreign objects in the cat

rooms: candy wrappers, strings, shoelaces, vegetation, etc., as these items can cause serious health problems if eaten by a curious or bored cat. Never allow anything to be tied or wrapped around a cat or kitten's neck. And be wary of any toy that could likewise cause such injury.

WARNING SIGNS:

Take note of the following symptoms and report to Shelter staff:

Discharges from eyes or nose

Sneezing

Listlessne

Lack of appetite

Diarrhea (can be caused by stress but can be serious, especially if occurring for several days or in conjunction with other symptoms).

Use common sense in handling cats you suspect may be ill. Wash your hands before handling another cat. Kittens are especially susceptible to disease that the older cats have built up resistance to. And, of course, discourage visitors from handling sick cats. A sick cat will be removed immediately from the multiple cat area and placed in cat isolation.

CLOSING:

When leaving each room, check that all cages are secured. The floors should be swept clean and supplies stowed neatly away. Litter scoops should be rinsed clean. Leave the room pleasant for both our residents and visitors.

VOLUNTEERS:

Thank you for your efforts in making the shelter a pleasant and secure refuge for lost and stray pets. You are very much appreciated!

DOGS:

Procedures for Dog Cleaning/volunteers

CLEANING INSIDE DOG KENNELS:

General: Not only does a thorough and effective cleaning of the animal shelter prevent the spread of communicable diseases, but it creates a better environment for animals, staff, and visitors. All dog kennels are cleaned and disinfected by a trained volunteer before opening to the public.

Open the guillotine door and let the dog into the outside kennel, and then close the guillotine door.

Place soiled blankets and cloth toys in a plastic bag, and place all hard toys in the sink to be washed and sanitized. Blankets that are only slightly used may be used by the same dog.

Empty the water into the drain; leftover food may be used by the same dog. If that dog is gone, then deposit the food in the trash can.

Remove solid waste from the kennel, such as feces, clumps of hair, and dry food on the floor. Using the pooper scooper, place the solid waste in the garbage can, when finished tie the bag closed and put in the dumpster.

Unwind the hose and turn on the warm water. Thoroughly spray the entire kennel with plain water using the hose nozzle. Hose down the walls, floor, kennel beds, and all sides of the kennel wires including the doors, hinges and latches. Scrub the floor with detergent and rinse with water. Thoroughly apply bleach solution to the walls (3/4 cup bleach per/1 gallon of water), floor and chain link. The disinfectant must remain on all surfaces for a minimum of 10 minutes. After the disinfectant has set for 10 minutes, thoroughly rinse with clear water. Dry the floor as much as possible using a large squeegee, directing the water to the drain.

Place a clean blanket or pad on the kennel bed. Place the food dish in the kennel. Each dog receives an appropriate toy and a treat.

Open the guillotine door and let the dog inside, then close the guillotine door.

OUTSIDE RUNS:

Follow the same procedure as the inside runs. Be sure to note any blood or worms in the stool, loose stool, or diarrhea and notify the Shelter Manager. If the same dog is staying in the same kennel, use detergent, but it is not necessary to use bleach.

Take the food and water dishes, and the hard toys to the utility sink. Wash with hot water, detergent, and rinse. Place warm water in the tote. Add enough bleach solution

to cover the dishes, soak 10 minutes, rinse thoroughly with plain water. Take the dishes back to the dog runs. Place a clean dish of fresh water, and a bowl of appropriate food for each dog in the kennel.

Turn off the water, release the pressure in the hose, roll up the hose and attach to the kennel door.

SUSTAINABLE ANIMAL CONTROL REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT TO THE COUNCIL

DRAFT

The **Sustainable Animal Control Review Committee (SACRC**) met at least once monthly from October 2015 through January 2016. There was considerable public interest in this committee and members of the public attended the meeting on a regular basis. The purpose of the committee was to look at was to operate the shelter more economically.

The SACRC recommended **fee changes** for the animal shelter to the Homer City Council, which were included and passed in the December 2015 budget process. The fees for the shelter had not been examined in many years and the committee felt these new fees will make the shelter more sustainable.

City liability was another issue the committee examined. The contract the City of Homer has with the contractor needs modification the next time an RFP is issued. The attorney recommends eliminating a specific paragraph in the contract because the city cannot mandate contractor performance. It would be wise to review the content of the whole contract before issuing the RFP next December. Patrick Lawrence contacted AMILJA and they suggested increasing the value of the insurance policy the contractor holds to 3 million dollars.

The SACRC understands the city is in the process of changing the city **website.** While this activity is going on, the SACRC recommends that the city include links to the Animal Shelter contractor and Homer Animal Friends. Also the committee felt there would be more compliance with license purchase if an option to purchase the license were available online and all fees were clearly posted online.

Maintenance of the shelter was discussed. The city maintains the shelter and the contractor operates the shelter. Proper maintenance will sustain the building. The contractor and the Public Works department have discussed improved maintenance visits and communication. Specifically the HVAC system was discussed in detail. The committee encouraged Public Works to develop a checklist for their monthly visit, to

Another way the committee felt the shelter could operate more economically was to have local **veterinarians** become involved. As a result of the SARC process, the local veterinarians will be volunteering to visit the shelter monthly.

Safety issues were considered. Limiting the city's liability was a topic of discussion. The committee looked at OSHA compliance and recommended an OSHA consultation in the future. The SACRC felt this voluntary visit by OSHA should be postponed for a few months, until the contractor feels they would benefit the most.

There are numerous **grants** available to nonprofit animal shelters that would provide considerable assistance to the operation of the shelter. The committee contemplated how the City of Homer could qualify for these grants, given the shelter is run by a contractor and the city does not operate the shelter. At this time, SACRC did not determine a way to qualify the shelter for these grants.

The committee examined other ways for **save funds** – from improved tracking of expenses in the city Finance department to saving money with storage of items in rented storage space. Improved tracking of income from the shelter would allow improved oversight of costs in running the shelter.

Every member of the SACRC committee felt that it would be worthwhile for the city to continue an **Animal Shelter Review committee**. This committee would help contractor with smooth operation of the shelter and be a go between for the city and the contractor. The SACRC understands the council does not want to create new committees as a cost saving measure. The contractor has determined they will initiate a committee of their choosing to meet b-monthly for shelter support.

The SACRC felt that **education of the public** would also improve shelter operation. The committee understands the city intends to add informational brochures with bills in the future. To that end, a community volunteer from Homer Animal Friends is developing an informational brochure about the shelter and its fees to be included in the bills in the future.

Volunteerism diminishes costs of operating the shelter. This topic was addressed in a myriad of ways. Most importantly, a Volunteer Release Form, per attorney advice, was developed to decrease city liability. The contractor reviewed their volunteer manual for both dog and cat care.

The committee looked at **Chapter 20** in the city code. Time did not allow the committee to thoroughly review this chapter but there were several places in the code that members felt needed refining. For instance, there was nothing addressing safety of animals in open vehicles. Some member of the of

As with all committees, there are numerous items that were not accomplished. The SACRC felt that the **most efficient operation** of the shelter would come from a city employee operating the shelter instead of a contractor.

From: Jo Johnson
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 3:13 PM
To: Melissa Jacobsen
Subject: FW: last item for packet

From: sherry bess [mailto:homershelter@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 3:00 PM
To: Jo Johnson
Subject: last item for packet

Jo, one last thing for the committee/packet, if you would. This is what we just posted on our Facebook, just one example, to address some of Ms. Price's accusations and comments.

Thanks,

Sherry

...To put to rest just one of Clear Creek Rescue's outrageous inaccuracies in their 8 page 'list of suggestions' (and comments) re. this shelter... JP states that she believes the Homer Animal Shelter had a feline 'kill rate' last year of 20 - 25%. In fact, we euthanized one cat. A wonderful, older girl named Angel, who had been our dear friend and mascot for some months, but who finally succumbed to advanced liver disease. We're not going to waste a whole lot more time with a back and forth, 'tit for tat' dialogue with JP, etc. But, if you're looking for facts folks, well, Clear Creek seems to make them up out of thin air...

January 13, 2016

To: Members of the Sustainable Animal Control Review Committee

Cities are made by their public spaces, places where people of all walks of life, all economic standings, can gather and feel comfortable. Public spaces are the reasons people choose to stay in a community. Over 10 years ago the City of Homer listened to hours of testimony from its residents about the importance and value of a new animal shelter building, and then went ahead and built it, and then hired an independent contractor and pretty much washed its hands of the place.

As a former shelter volunteer, I (and many others) made previous efforts to engage the city manager and police department in the operation of the shelter. However, my concerns were blatantly ignored and dismissed despite the fact that I had provided hours and hours of free labor to the city as a volunteer. Now the city has created this committee with the goal of finding ways to help make our city's animal control department a sustainable and effective enterprise. But are there really going to be any actions taken?

If the city's independent contractor is provided autonomy and final say on all decisions regarding policies and procedures at the shelter, then the residents of this community have no choice but to accept the consequences of those decisions. However, animal shelters are generally contentious enterprises, with various factions having various opinions about what policies should be in place, and it seems that a more practical and proactive approach would be to have the city engaged in the decision-making and providing some sort of oversight.

It seems to me the city has three options to ensure this animal shelter is run effectively and efficiently:

1) Ideally, there would be enough money to hire two employees: an animal shelter manager and an animal control officer who would have the full support of the city's infrastructure. However, this is clearly not economically feasible at this time.
2) The other end of the spectrum would be to forego having a fully functional animal shelter here. The City of Homer could do what the Kenai Peninsula Borough does with our trash: use the building as a holding facility and then transport any unclaimed animals up to a facility where there is more money and more staff to help them. This is not a very appealing option either.
3) Thus, it seems the best option is to keep the current system in place while taking the initiative to make some changes to the city's contract for animal control and management of the shelter. Certainly the Homer Animal Shelter should be valued as a public space as much as the Homer Public Library, meaning that ideally there would be not only a nonprofit support group, allowed to provide as many support services as possible, but also an advisory group to meet regularly and share the many responsibilities involved in running a shelter, making sure the city's expectations and the public's needs are being met.

Asking one independent contractor to do the jobs of animal shelter manager and animal control officer is ludicrous. It is an insurmountable amount of work and responsibilities unless the contracting company has significant staff. This is an overwhelming job that very few people have the skill set to do and, thus, there needs to be a very strong and consistent support system in place. Nationwide it has been shown that animal shelters have the best success by engaging in as many networking resources as possible: volunteers, on-site veterinary aid, foster homes, rescue groups, etc. The more options available for each animal, the less likely the city will have to pay to house and feed that animal long-term.

* * * * * * * * * * * *

Regarding some of the actions this committee has discussed so far, I have some comments:

FEES: The city has decided to raise fees and I assume consideration has been given to the fact that higher fees may result in some people deciding they cannot afford or will not pay those fees. This may be beneficial in weeding out people who perhaps do not have the financial means to be pet owners, or perhaps the fees can be waived in certain situations, but higher fees can potentially result in more animals at the shelter.

LICENSES: At this point very few city residents are even aware that dog licenses are mandatory. Making the information about licenses more available, as well as making the licensing process easier and more accessible, is a valid plan for increasing revenue. But who is going to enforce that animals are licensed? Who is going to process the licenses and renewals? Who is going to create and write the pamphlet and make people understand it? This will entail a lot of extra clerical/administrative work.

From the minutes of the 11/19/15 SAC RC meeting: "Any pamphlet developed should have information regarding why licensing is important, what are the benefits, how are the fees used to support animal control in the city and a synopsis of the city ordinance." This prompts the question -- what are the benefits of a license? In many cities it is understood that if licensed, an animal is registered in some form of database which could potentially help reunite the animal with its owner. Also, licensed animals may receive preferential treatment at an animal shelter (some shelters allow licensed dogs to remain for five days rather than three). If the Homer shelter or the city is not able to maintain any such database or computerized registration system, then it must be made clear to the public that a license solely functions as a support system for animal control costs and provides no additional benefits to the pet owner.

CITY CODE: There seems to be general consensus that the city code regarding animals is sorely lacking and in need of updating. Many communities have regulations making it illegal to have animals riding on a driver's lap or loose in the back of pickup trucks, creating potentially dangerous conditions not only for the animals, but for all drivers in the vicinity. If such laws are established, is the Homer Police Department going to enforce them as moving violations? And what about cruelty to animals laws? It is well-proven that people who abuse animals have a startling propensity to commit other violent offenses toward human victims.

Will the city be willing to step up and actually create some ordinances to address this issue and enforce it?

VOLUNTEERS: Bottom line, there is no better way to save money and aid in the sustainability of an animal shelter than through a viable volunteer force. There needs to be volunteer training, volunteer organization, regular volunteer meetings, volunteer appreciation events, recordkeeping of how many hours of free labor the volunteers are providing, as well as a readily available volunteer training/safety manual which I believe this committee is exploring. Though it is true that volunteers can sometimes be at odds with shelter staff due to their vastly different perspectives and priorities, volunteers must be welcomed and embraced and appreciated and valued, and, if properly trained, hopefully the working relationship can be productive and effective.

* * * * * * * * * * * *

Homer's animal shelter is a public space. It is a building the public fought for, helps to pay for, and wants to support.

** *The public should feel free to walk into their animal shelter and find a relatively clean and orderly building.*

** *The public should feel welcomed as visitors or in times of stress if they have found an animal or need to relinquish an animal.*

** *The public should be able to provide volunteerism with a reasonable level of training, support, safety, and supervision.*

** *The public should be greeted politely and without prejudice when inquiring about adopting a new pet.*

** *The public should be able to use the building as it was intended, taking advantage of having a venue for educational opportunities, training, community service, etc.*

** *The public should be able to receive all relevant information, when available, about the animals up for adoption in order to facilitate successful adoptions (health records, vaccinations, behavioral history, Pet of the Week info, etc.).*

** *The public should be able to receive accurate receipts and records for all donations made, whether cash, supplies, food, volunteer time, etc.*

** *The public should have at least general information about their animal shelter's budget and how the monies are being used.*

Thank you for taking the time to serve on this committee, and thank you for taking the time to read my statement. - Diana Sedor

JAN 13 2016 PM04:18

KS

January 12, 2016

To: Sustainable Animal Control Review Committee

Thank you very much for the time and energy you have all devoted to this endeavor.

We have been members of Homer Animal Friends and Homer Dog Trainers for many years and our ONLY interest in the work of this committee is for the health and welfare of the animals in the shelter.

Ms. Bess has provided years of service to the Homer community animal shelter and we honor her commitment. But it is the community's shelter as Dr. Sherwood has so eloquently stated. It is not a private entity and for far too long there has been no oversight, particularly from health professionals, let alone other interested members of the community, into how our shelter might be improved so as to lessen disease and promote the welfare of the animals that are housed there.

It's hard for us to understand why anyone would not want to improve a community resource by utilizing volunteers and health professionals' pro bono efforts--especially when it involves live animals.

We highly encourage this committee to amend the animal shelter contract to require monthly inspections of the shelter by local veterinarians and to require the contractor to follow health protocols submitted to them by these professionals. In addition because of the importance of the issues raised during these meetings we sincerely hope that the committee will make a strong recommendation to the City Council to set up an ongoing supervisory or advisory committee.

The importance of this valuable community asset (witness the citizen participation during these proceedings) justifies continued community oversight.

Thank you for your time.

Hal Smith and Susan McLane

To the Sustainable Animal Control Review Committee 1/12/16

I am writing to express a number of concerns I have regarding our local Homer Animal Shelter and the way in which it is being operated. Let me first off say although I am not a city resident, I am the owner of two businesses in the City of Homer and my businesses do supply the city with sales tax revenue. Also, I have been a dog owner almost my entire life and most recently have adopted a puppy from the Homer Animal Shelter so I have had some experience there.

I attended the Sustainable Animal Control Review Committee meeting on Jan. 7, 2016 because I wanted to see what was happening, and because I already had many concerns about how our shelter was being run. I wish I could say that I felt better after attending this meeting, but instead, I am more concerned than ever.

There were 3 people in the audience who made comments at the close of that meeting and the first two I felt were good comments and addressed a lot of the same concerns I have- mostly that the current shelter manage is very conservative about who she allows to adopt animals from there, and because of that, many animals remain in the shelter much longer than is healthy for them, either physically or emotionally. I was especially interested in the comments, and the letter submitted, by Judy Price, of Clear Creek Cat Rescue who suggested that there be a set amount of time such as 2 weeks or 1 month to allow animals to be rescued from the shelter. If at that time that animal has not been rescued, allow a rescue group to place the animal in a foster home and then be put up for adoption when the animal has adjusted to family life again. Animals do NOT do well in a shelter environment for weeks at a time- it is very stressful on them. They do so much better in a qualified foster home which can provide life in a much less stressful environment and probably a much healthier environment also. The number of cats in the Homer Animal Shelter is deplorable. The health of the cats is compromised as many feline diseases pass quickly in such circumstances. And I have heard of many people who adopted cats from the Homer Animal Shelter with health issues, due to this overcrowding and lack of adequate care.

I guess I should not have been surprised when the next day our shelter manager made the comment that she would no longer allow CCCR to take cats from our shelter to be placed in foster homes and then put up for adoption. This is wrong on so many accounts, but mostly I see this as inappropriate for a public animal shelter to NOT be letting the animals be adopted to good homes, in whatever way is best within the shortest amount of time. Our city is in finance distress, and hoarding cats at the public shelter is not helping the city with any financial contribution. The whole purpose of this committee, as worded in the name, is sustainable. I am not feeling as if the way the shelter is currently being run allows for any sustainability.

I felt the third person to comment was rude and inappropriate. I understand he is an active volunteer at the shelter. Earlier in the meeting he wrote something on a note and went up to the committee while a discussion was happening and dropped a note in front of Sherry, the shelter manager. I thought perhaps he had to leave the

meeting early and wanted her to share a concern he had, but no- he stayed until the very end of the meeting and made some rude comment about wanting this witch hunt to be over with so they could get back to business as usual at the shelter. Wow! Really? This public process is being compared to a witch hunt and they hope to get back to business as usual at the shelter? Does this mean all of these hours put in by the committee are for naught and nothing is going to change and the shelter will be as poorly run as ever? This is not to say that Sherry, the shelter manager, doesn't care for the animals in there- especially the cats. I know that she does, but I for one am quite upset about MY tax dollars and the thousands of dollars that my business donated to see this new shelter built years ago being run into the ground and so poorly mis-managed that no one really knows what is going on behind closed doors there.

I understand that earlier on the committee wanted to have a walk through the shelter, but the manager asked for time to get it cleaned up enough to allow that. Really? Isn't this OUR public animal shelter? Aren't we putting the manager in charge to account for a clean and healthy place for our homeless animals to pass some time? Would the librarian at our public library stall if the community wanted to do a walk through? Would the police chief stall or the fire chief? I have some real concerns there in regards to the sanitation of the building and the lack of animal husbandry skills on a day to day basis. The shelter should be a place that people feel comfortable going to, any day, rather than only on days it has been scrubbed and sanitized. I have personally found the smell in this shelter to be extreme, especially considering the building was state of the art when it was built, and was built to handle a smaller number of animals.

I also had personal experience when I adopted my puppy from there and asked Sherry if she had any further information about her- her age, where she came from, etc. Sherry flipped through a spiral notebook for a few seconds and then said "oh, I think she came from Anchor Point" and is about 8 weeks old, but when I look at my paperwork, the age of the pup says 7 weeks. I have adopted from other places, including another animal shelter, and those places all had a detailed card for each animal in a kennel, filled in about when the animal arrived, date of birth (if known), and other details about the animal. I was quite appalled at the lack of recordkeeping in this shelter. And I have heard from numerous other people that they had much of the same response from the shelter manager as I did. I will say I am thrilled to have the dog that I have from there, just as I know of many people who have adopted wonderful cats, or dogs, or birds, or rabbits over the years, but that still does not take away the layers of concern that I have.

The meeting that I attended, on Jan. 7th, had under new business the parameters of boarding animals at the shelter. First off, I have always found it strange that the public shelter boards animals, but during this meeting I heard comments from the shelter manager that she wanted to extend the time limit so that dogs would be allowed to be boarded for up to 3 weeks, and that would help with some revenue to the city. And then she went on to say that volunteers could walk those dogs, and

take them to the play yard and let them run around, etc. Whoa! Red flag- first off as a dog owner I would be very concerned about the health and welfare of my dog in that stressful environment for 3 weeks. Secondly, I would be very concerned that volunteers, who have not received any training, nor signed any liability forms, would be taking my beloved pet out of a safe area and potentially walking her next to a busy street. How do I know that she is getting the care that I paid for? And thirdly, I would be very upset if a stray or lost dog was picked up or brought to the shelter and was told there was "no room at the inn", so to speak, if all the dog kennels were filled with dogs that were paying to be there. Where is the priority in that situation? I do NOT feel the public animal shelter should be a boarding kennel, except perhaps in the event of quarantined animals.

This brings up one of my other concerns- volunteers at the shelter. I love that volunteers can be there and I know it makes a difference in the day to the animals that are there, but I also feel that this puts the city at risk without having proper supervision, training, and legal protection. Animals do bite and scratch, and injuries do occur. With a little bit of training, volunteers would better understand what body language to look for in the animals and better how to approach and handle the animals. How to put on a slip collar so that a dog can not back out of it and run away- how to pick up a small dog or cat so as to lessen injuries and stress to the animal, etc. Probably there are even volunteers who are knowledgeable on the computer and could help keep more accurate records on the animals that are there and could help with paperwork such as licenses (which I had never heard were required) and follow up on whether or not the animals were spayed or neutered as expected.

To wrap up my letter, I would like to emphasize major concerns:

Because the shelter is contracted out to a for-profit business, I feel the city has ignored, or assumed, that everything was being run adequately and there has been a lack of supervision or support given to OUR local public animal shelter. This needs to change and there MUST be more accountability for the animals that go into and out of the shelter.

In this time of budget shortages and tightening up local agencies, I feel the shelter needs some re-vamping and better record keeping. Why keep 30-40 cats in the shelter when there are foster homes out there which work efficiently to get these cats placed in good homes. It would save on food costs, general supply (kitty litter, cleaning supplies, etc) costs and health costs, not to mention the sanity of the animal involved. The cost to adopt an animal should be posted and should be very clear. AND no exceptions to indigent persons on whom the fee would constitute an extreme hardship (Homer City Code 20.08.120). If a person can't afford to adopt an animal, will they be able to afford to provide adequate food and/or health care for the animal? That is a risk to all involved.

It would be in the city's best interest to not have this position be contracted out, but instead be one or two people on the city payroll, and therefore the record keeping

and responsibility would lay back where it needs to. As a city taxpayer, I would sure like to see how the $10,823.40 paid each month to the contractor goes. How much is spent on food? On health care? How many animals come into the shelter each month and how many are adopted out? What numbers of animals are euthanized? This really should all be public information, but because of the contract and the lack of supervision, there is little information available to the general public.

Lastly I would like to acknowledge the hard work that Sherry has put in for many years, and the passion that she has, especially for the cats. By all means, if she wishes to run a cat kennel and try to save as many cats as she wants- that is her right, but not with our tax dollars. The role of an animal shelter is to care for strays and find homes for homeless animals, and to help owners be reunited with their lost animals. I question whether this is being adequately carried through.

Thank you for your time and your commitment to the animals of our community.

Sue Post- 235-7496