

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Interim – May-December:
1292 Sadler Way Rm. 323
Fairbanks, AK 99701
907-452-1088



Session – January-April:
State Capitol Rm 500
Juneau, AK 99801
907-465-3004

Representative Will Stapp

District 32: East Fairbanks, Fort Wainwright, Badger

Rep.Will.Stapp@akleg.gov

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee:

Please see our responses to the questions brought up in committee below.

Question: Can you define companion animal? Is there a legal distinction that confines this program to just cats and dogs? What about feral dogs?

“Companion animal,” as used in the bill, is primarily associated with the specialty license plate language, which would serve as one of the voluntary income sources for the Statewide Spay & Neuter Fund.

The bill does not currently define “pet.” One potentially relevant statutory definition appears in AS 18.66.990(8), which defines “pet” as a vertebrate living creature maintained for companionship or pleasure, but excludes dogs primarily owned for participation in mushing or pulling contests or practice. However, that definition exists in a separate statutory context and is not currently incorporated into HB 258.

As discussed in prior committees, references to feral animals were removed from the legislation.

Question: Are sled dogs covered in the legislation?

Sled dogs currently are considered commercial animals, and are therefore not covered in this legislation.