

# ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS

## Resolution #2026-22

### **A resolution in support of a statewide spay and neuter program.**

WHEREAS, communities across Alaska face ongoing challenges related to pet overpopulation, animal welfare, and the financial burden of sheltering unwanted animals; and

WHEREAS, spaying and neutering are effective, humane methods for reducing stray populations, shelter intake, euthanasia rates, and associated public health concerns; and

WHEREAS, expanding access to affordable sterilization services – potentially funded through specialty license plate sales and Pick.Click.Give contributions – would help reduce the financial burden on municipalities, nonprofits, and taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, a statewide program would provide resources and technical support to strengthen local efforts in animal safety and welfare.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska Municipal League supports the creation of a statewide spay and neuter program, implemented in collaboration with municipalities, veterinarians, and animal welfare organizations.

Adopted by the majority of AML members at the Annual Business Meeting, December 12, 2025.

**From:** [Cyndie Warbelow](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** HB 258  
**Date:** Thursday, January 29, 2026 6:07:12 PM  
**Attachments:** [Screenshot 2026-01-25 at 11.31.24AM.png](#)

---

Hello...I urge all of you to support HB258, Statewide Spay and Neuter Assistance Program. The inhumanity of our allowing, and in some cases encouraging, the breeding and production of so many unwanted animals is the primary reason to support this bill. Personally I have adopted multiple cats from rescue organizations and many have lived to 18 or 20 years in age and one actually lived a documented 22 years. I agreed to foster and ultimately adopt an abandoned dove who lived with me for 26 years.

It is so easy for people to allow a cat or a dog to have a litter, or maybe litters, of kittens or puppies with no responsibility for assuring those kittens and puppies will have a home for 15 or 20 years. We know how to prevent that ...spaying and neutering. In a perfect world, pet owners would take on that responsibility themselves, but in many cases the cost is a deterring factor or at least one that can be used as an excuse. HB2538 is not only a big step toward reducing the number of unwanted animals without the home they deserve, but it also will save public money that goes toward our overloaded animal shelters and to animal control costs.

This is my verbal explanation for my support of this bill, but the attached notice posted recently on FaceBook by the FNSB Animal Shelter says much more succinctly why we need HB258. Our shelter has posted this message numerous times just this winter. The private animal rescues in Fairbanks are also often at capacity. We cannot find long term homes for all the animals we are currently allowing to be produced. Please support HB258.

Cyndie Warbelow

[REDACTED]  
Fairbanks, Alaska. 99712

From: [REDACTED]  
Subject: FW: HB 258  
Date: Friday, January 30, 2026 7:24:57 AM

---

From: Margaret Cloud [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2026 12:29 AM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: HB 258

I am very pleased to learn that House Bill 258 has been introduced, An Act establishing a statewide spay and neuter assistance fund; establishing the statewide spay and neuter assistance program; relating to municipal control of feral domestic dogs and cats; relating to companion animal spay and neuter special request registration plates; relating to contributions from permanent fund dividends; and providing for an effective date.

These are some key points that need to be discussed:

- It is extremely difficult for people in remote areas to access vet care due to a lack of local vets and the difficulty in reaching a vet.
- The cost for vet care has been increasing, particularly due to private practices being purchased by corporations.
- Transporting animals to vets is extremely difficult due to a lack of roads and the distance, with small aircraft often as the only option.
- Some remote communities have been served by programs such as Good Fix (through Greater Good) however these programs only visit areas without a vet and are only in a community for a few days once a year.
- Fewer than 50% of companion pets (cats and dogs) receive any vaccinations, a very serious issue if a person is bit and the rabies vaccination status of the animal is unknown.
- It is currently illegal to practice trap/neuter/vaccinate/return in Alaska according to 5 AAC 92.029 (b) The following species, not including a hybrid of a game animal and a species listed in this subsection, may be possessed, imported, exported, bought, sold, or traded without a permit from the department **but may not be released into the wild: Common Name Scientific Name Dog *Canis familiaris* Cat *Felis catus* ...**

Passage of HB 258 will greatly assist Ketchikan Community Cats Program (KCCP) a very small all volunteer animal rescue program that started about 9 years ago to help a limited number of abandoned and stray cats. Two and a half years ago the number of stray cats expanded dramatically and as a result the program continues to expand to meet the growing needs of Ketchikan, Saxman, Metlakatla, Edna Bay, and all communities on Prince of Wales Island (POW). In February 2025, KCCP became a 501 (c)(3). In November 2025 KCCP expanded Pet Food Pantries to Metlakatla and all communities on POW.

In addition to providing pet food, the pantry volunteers in Metlakatla and POW work with community members to apply for the Ketchikan Humane Society (KHS) low-cost subsidized altering program, SNIP. Although the SNIP program pays the majority of the cost for altering, owners are still responsible for transporting animals to Ketchikan and paying for vaccinations. KCCP usually coordinates transport of pets to Ketchikan by air through Taquan Air or by boat using the Inner Island Ferry (IFA) or the Alaska Marine Highway from Metlakatla. While in Ketchikan for altering, KCCP houses cats and dogs and ensures that the animals get to the vet for surgery. Since most pet owners in the remote communities are low income, KCCP usually covers the rabies and combo vaccinations when animals are altered.

KCCP has been constantly working to control the population of cats in colonies by working with concerned community members. KCCP uses best practices by trapping, altering, and vaccinating adult cats before returning cats to managed colony settings with a dedicated feeder (TNVR). KCCP has been able to use the KHS feral cat altering vouchers for most strays but stills pays for the rabies, combo, and leukemia vaccinations for each cat. Releasing fully vaccinated cats to managed colonies helps reduce the spread of diseases to owned inside/outside cats.

When trapping in colonies, all kittens are brought into rescue and placed in homes after being altered and vaccinated. The average cost to alter and vaccinate a kitten/cat is \$250 - a discounted rate - while the adoption fee for a kitten is \$130 and the adoption fee for an adult is \$30. KCCP averages at least \$2,000 per month in vet bills.

Additional money is needed to continue and to expand programs for altering cats and dogs in order to stop the overwhelming number of kittens and puppies born each year, particularly in areas without any vet services or extremely limited services. The financial burden on communities is enormous. For instance, the Ketchikan Gateway Borough Animal Protection department spends approximately \$20 per day per animal for animals at the shelter. Some animals have been at the shelter in excess of one year. This results in a cost of over \$7,200 for a single animal. Passage of HB 258 is a step in the right direction.



**From:** [Amber Nickerson](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Support for HB 258  
**Date:** Friday, January 30, 2026 7:06:37 AM

---

I'm writing in support of HB 258, which would create a statewide spay/neuter assistance program. In much of Alaska, especially rural communities, reliable veterinary care and animal control infrastructure are limited or nonexistent.

At the same time, the cost of spay/neuter is out of reach for many families, and the logistics of getting an animal to a clinic can be a barrier all on its own.

**The result is predictable and preventable.**

**Unmanaged litters, loose and stray animals, overwhelmed rescues, and rising public health and safety concerns.**

**Nonprofits, volunteer networks, and individual foster homes are already doing crisis-level work, often taking animals in at the breaking point, because there simply isn't enough access to affordable spay/neuter services.**

HB 258 is a practical, humane step that would reduce suffering, protect people and pets, and give communities the support they need to get ahead of the problem instead of constantly reacting to it.

Sincerely,  
Amber Nickerson  
Dog owner and animal lover

**From:** [Markus Raemy](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Spay/Neuter dogs  
**Date:** Friday, January 30, 2026 5:16:11 AM

---

To Whom it May Concern,

There is strong support for House Bill 258 throughout Alaskan communities. In the Bering Straits (Norton Sound) Region, communities struggle without regular animal care/control enforcement and access to health care.

The unmanaged litters propagate public health and safety hazards, and manageable situations quickly escalate out of control. People and pets are injured or killed from accidents caused by loose/stray animals. With no one regulating animal care/control laws, the unmanaged litters propagate the spread of infectious diseases (parvo, distemper, rabies) and increase the number of neglected and abandoned dogs/puppies. It's a cycle of suffering for at-risk animals and people, constantly overwhelming non-profit resources because there's no infrastructure to support quality of life services in these rural municipalities.

Alaska needs this House Bill, and it is my sincere hope that you advocate for House Bill 258 to the best of your ability on behalf of public health and safety of all Alaskans.

Kind regards,  
Wendy Alward

**From:** [Sarah Maxwell](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Support for house bill 258  
**Date:** Friday, January 30, 2026 3:33:06 AM

---

I apologize, Im not sure why it was like that.

Dear Members of the Legislature,

I am writing in support of House Bill 258, which establishes a statewide spay and neuter assistance program to address animal overpopulation in a proactive, humane, and fiscally responsible way.

Communities across Alaska, especially rural and underserved areaa, continue to face challenges from uncontrolled dog and cat populations, placing strain on local governments, shelters, and public safety resources. By focusing on prevention, HB 258 helps reduce long-term costs while improving animal welfare and community health.

I appreciate that this program is voluntary, flexible, and supported through dedicated funding options rather than general funds. HB 258 represents a thoughtful, cost-effective solution, and I urge your support.

Sincerely,  
Sarah Maxwell

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I am writing in support of House Bill 258, which establishes a statewide spay and neuter assistance program to address animal overpopulation in a proactive, humane, and fiscally responsible way.

Communities across Alaska, especially rural and underserved areas, continue to face challenges from uncontrolled dog and cat populations, placing strain on local governments, shelters, and public safety resources. By focusing on prevention, HB 258 helps reduce long-term costs while improving animal welfare and community health.

I appreciate that this program is voluntary, flexible, and supported through dedicated funding options rather than general funds. HB 258 represents a thoughtful, cost-effective solution, and I urge your support.

Sincerely,

Sarah Maxwell

From: [Yvette OConnor](#)  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: HB 258  
Date: Friday, January 30, 2026 12:37:34 AM

---

Dear Representatives,

Please support House Bill 258 throughout Alaskan communities. In so many village/rural regions, communities struggle without regular animal care/control enforcement and access to health care.


The unmanaged litters propagate public health and safety hazards, and manageable situations quickly escalate out of control. People and pets are injured or killed from accidents caused by loose/stray animals. With no one regulating animal care/control laws, the unmanaged litters propagate the spread of infectious diseases (parvo, distemper, rabies) and increase the number of neglected and abandoned dogs/puppies. It's a cycle of suffering for at-risk animals and people, constantly overwhelming non-profit resources because there's no infrastructure to support quality of life services in these rural municipalities.

I personally know non-profit groups that do all in their power to help these dogs, but they are overwhelmed and can't keep up.

Alaska needs this House Bill, and it is my sincere hope that you advocate for House Bill 258 to the best of your ability on behalf of public health and safety of all Alaskans, as well as the many innocent animals in harms way.

Thank you.

Yvette O'Connor

 Certified Animal Rehabilitation Therapist  
Expawmation A.R.T.

**From:** [linda heck](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [House Resources](#)  
**Subject:** support for AK HB 258, Statewide Spay and Neuter Assistance Fund and Program  
**Date:** Thursday, January 29, 2026 11:58:50 PM

---

Hello,

I am writing today in support of AK HB 258, Statewide Spay and Neuter Assistance Fund and Program. As a responsible pet owner, lifelong Fairbanksan, and former FNSB Animal Shelter volunteer, I am encouraged to see HB 258 being considered this year. Preventing unplanned pregnancies of pets is much less expensive than continuously contending with unwanted pet births. Too often people can't afford to get their pet(s) spayed or neutered, only to then have litters of offspring which they also cannot afford to care for. Sure, baby animals are cute, often until they grow up enough to lose the youthful cuteness and then end up unwanted at the local continuously full animal shelter. Endless unplanned pet births are just not sustainable for our communities. The local animal rescues are also seemingly always at their capacity limits and asking for more community help. As I said, it's just not sustainable, nor is it humane to the animals.

Please consider the positive benefits for our communities, and the welfare of domestic animals, and approve this bill to move forward. Then, when it is up for floor vote, please support this bill with a "yes" vote.

Thank you,

Linda Heck

[REDACTED]

Fairbanks, AK 99709

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Trail Breaker Veterinary Services](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** House bill 258  
**Date:** Thursday, January 29, 2026 10:13:38 PM

---

To those representing Alskans,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 258, which proposes the creation of a state fund to help cover the costs of spaying and neutering in Alaska. I live in Anchorage and provide veterinary services throughout the state. I work part time at Alaska SPCA performing high volume, high quality spay neuter. I also own my own practice Trail Breaker Veterinary Services, which travels to communities around the state that do not have local veterinary options.

As a provider of veterinary services, I see firsthand the importance of accessible population control programs. This bill would provide essential resources to help manage the pet population and improve animal welfare throughout our state. By reducing the financial barrier for pet owners, we can ensure a healthier environment for both animals and our communities. I know many veterinarians who care deeply about pets and their families and try everything we can to make these services affordable. At the end of the day though, medicine costs money and the medical providers cannot be the ones footing the bill for the services we provide. This is how providers burn out and it's a huge part of why there aren't more veterinarians providing services, especially in remote places that need it most. Even in Anchorage, most people bring their pet to SPCA, from all over the road system, because it is less expensive. This means non profits are driving public health services in the state. It would be extremely wise for the state to contribute to preventative population control measures, in the form of reliable spay neuter assistance and education.

The other end of the pet overpopulation problem is not just rabies and dog bites. It is animal control officers and community members being forced to euthanize high numbers of healthy animals, because there is no where to put them, to the point that it impacts their mental health. They do not have the resources to support what is being asked of them, and it is damaging good people. I've also heard stories of ACOs being asked to euthanize whole litters of kittens and they just cannot do it, which in turn leads to feral cat overpopulation and increased disease risk. There is plenty of research about spay neuter programs solving overpopulation problems, but they need funding. If they are always reliant on non profits, it means our state health is in the hands of unpaid, or underpaid, passionate people who can choose at any time to stop attaining funding. Then the programs go away. State funding is the only way to make public health programs reliable.

Thank you for your time and for your consideration of this important legislation.

Best regards,  
Dr. Emily Iacobucci DVM  
Owner and Veterinarian  
Trail Breaker Veterinary Services

**From:** [Shauna Nickel](#)  
**Subject:** HB 258  
**Date:** Thursday, January 29, 2026 10:04:29 PM

---

As an animal rescue volunteer, I have special insight into the following issue. Without proper oversight, unmanaged animal populations quickly create serious public health and safety risks. What begin as manageable situations often escalate, resulting in injuries to both people and pets caused by loose or stray animals. The lack of animal care and control enforcement allows uncontrolled breeding to continue, contributing to the spread of infectious diseases such as parvovirus, distemper, and rabies, and increasing the number of neglected and abandoned dogs and puppies. The situation is tragic and heartbreaking.

Shauna Nickel  
Anchorage Resident

-

**From:** [Valerie Amos](#)

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Date:** Thursday, January 29, 2026 9:33:26 PM

---

To Whom it May Concern,

There is strong support for House Bill 258 throughout Alaskan communities. In the Bering Straits (Norton Sound) Region, communities struggle without regular animal care/control enforcement and access to health care.

The unmanaged litters propagate public health and safety hazards, and manageable situations quickly escalate out of control. People and pets are injured or killed from accidents caused by loose/stray animals. With no one regulating animal care/control laws, the unmanaged litters propagate the spread of infectious diseases (parvo, distemper, rabies) and increase the number of neglected and abandoned dogs/puppies. It's a cycle of suffering for at-risk animals and people, constantly overwhelming non-profit resources because there's no infrastructure to support quality of life services in these rural municipalities.

Alaska needs this House Bill, and it is my sincere hope that you advocate for House Bill 258 to the best of your ability on behalf of public health and safety of all Alaskans.

**From:** [Laura Atwood](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** HB 258  
**Date:** Thursday, January 29, 2026 8:02:23 PM

---

To Whom It May Concern,

If you live in Alaska, you have surely heard this conversation between two dog owners: "What kind of dog is that?" "She's a village dog."

There are countless numbers of village dogs throughout rural Alaska, a result of a lack of veterinary services, specifically spay/neuter services. The impacts of free-roaming dogs on the communities in which they live include injury to people and pets, the spread of infectious diseases such as parvo, distemper, and rabies, and the emotional toll on residents and community safety officers when dogs are shot to reduce the population. The dogs themselves suffer - living their lives with no consistent access to food and water, and no shelter from Alaska's weather. Finally, while some of these dogs find their way to Anchorage through non-profit rescues, the municipal shelter and many rescues are already full of dogs in need of homes. It is not possible to find enough good homes with responsible owners for all of these dogs.

Alaska needs this House Bill. I sincerely hope that you advocate for House Bill 258 for the public health and safety of Alaskans and for the dogs.

Sincerely,  
Laura Atwood

**From:** [Pam Evans](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Support HB 258  
**Date:** Friday, January 30, 2026 11:20:03 AM

---

I am asking for your support for HB 258, statewide spay/neuter assistance program. As a foster I know first hand, how important this bill is. There are not enough homes, rescues are overflowing, animals young and adults are being dumped to die. It is a safety hazard to people and their pets with the spread of infectious diseases like parvo, distemper, & rabies. So much suffering can be stopped by having a spay/neuter assistance program to reduce the high number of animals being born. I urge you to please pledge your full support for HB 258

Sincerely  
Pam Evans