



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE

Animal Control Advisory Board

March 19, 2015

Representatives Liz Vazquez and Max Gruenberg
Alaska Capitol, Room 110
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: Support for House Bill 147

Dear Representatives Vazquez and Gruenberg,

Attached is Animal Control Advisory Board Resolution 2015-04 supporting House Bill 147. This resolution was passed unanimously by the Animal Control Advisory Board.

The board appreciates your dedication to the protection of people and pets in Alaska and your leadership on this significant legislation.

Sincerely,

Allegra Hamer, Chair

ATTCH: ACAB Resolution 2015-04



**MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 2015-04**

WHEREAS the Animal Control Advisory Board has considered House Bill 147 as it relates to the cost of care in animal cruelty and neglect cases, the inclusion of animals in protective orders in domestic violence cases, and providing for the custody of animals in divorce cases; and

WHEREAS one of the greatest obstacles for enforcing animal cruelty laws is the cost of caring for abused and neglected animals for long periods of time while cases are prosecuted, especially in situations where dozens of animals are seized for their protection; and

WHEREAS cost of animal care laws assist in remedying that obstacle by holding offenders responsible for the financial burden of caring for their pets through posting of a court ordered bond; and

WHEREAS cost of animal care laws also allow for the adoption and re-homing of seized animals if an owner fails to post a bond to provide care for their animals; and

WHEREAS a number of studies show the link between animal and human violence and that pet abuse is a predictor of domestic violence; and

WHEREAS abusers manipulate and control human victims through threatened or actual violence against family pets causing victims to stay in unsafe situations to protect their animals; and

WHEREAS including animals in protection orders is an important way to remove an obstacle that prevents victims from seeking safety and insure the welfare and protection of all victims of family violence, human and animal; and

WHEREAS because pets play a significant role in our lives and become part of our family units, they should not be treated as personal property in divorce cases; and

WHEREAS the courts should consider the best interest of the pet in making custody determinations in cases of divorce; and

WHEREAS the Municipality of Anchorage Animal Control Advisory Board has supported strengthening of animal cruelty and care legislation in Alaska for several years; and

NOW THEREFORE, the Municipal Animal Control Advisory Board hereby resolves:

That House Bill 147 be enacted by the legislature as it protects people and animals in Alaska.

PASSED and Approved by the Animal Control Advisory Board this 20th day of March, 2015.

Chair, Animal Control Advisory Board