

CODE ORDINANCE

Sponsored by: Borough Manager
Introduced: 02/03/26
Public Hearing: 02/17/26
Adopted: 02/17/26

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
ORDINANCE SERIAL NO. 26-019**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY REPEALING MSB 1.10.265, ANIMAL CONTROL IN ITS ENTIRETY; AND ADOPTING MSB 1.10.141, ANIMAL CONTROL, TO ESTABLISH AREAWIDE AUTHORITY FOR ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES WITHIN THE BOROUGH, TO INCLUDE THE CITIES OF PALMER, WASILLA, AND HOUSTON.

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough ("Borough") currently exercises non-areawide animal care authority, as provided under MSB Code and in accordance with A.S. 29.35.210.

WHEREAS, under the current structure, the Borough provides limited animal care services within incorporated cities by contract, including shelter operations, acceptance of strays, and adoption services, with animals transported to the Borough shelter by the respective cities.

WHEREAS, enforcement and regulatory functions such as field response, investigations, impound, and emergency response—are not currently provided by the Borough within city limits, unless specifically requested for an isolated incident.

WHEREAS, state law, A.S. 29.35.210(b), authorizes second-class boroughs to exercise animal control powers on an areawide basis through enactment of a Borough ordinance.

WHEREAS, the Manager, after consultation with the incorporated cities of Palmer, Wasilla, and Houston, advised that

a Borough ordinance establishing areawide animal care powers would not be presented to the Assembly absent formal agreement from the cities supporting such implementation.

WHEREAS, the City Councils of Palmer, Wasilla, and Houston have each adopted resolutions requesting and supporting the implementation of areawide animal care authority within their respective city limits.

WHEREAS, consolidating animal care responsibilities under a single areawide authority will promote consistent enforcement, enhance public and animal safety, improve response capability, streamline operations, and ensure equitable delivery of animal care services Borough-Wide.

WHEREAS, the Assembly finds that establishing areawide animal care powers is in the best interest of the residents of the Borough, improves efficiency, and supports consistent regulatory enforcement inside and outside incorporated cities.

BE IT ENACTED:

Section 1. Classification. Sections 1, 4, and 5 of this ordinance are noncode, Sections 2 and 3 are of a general and permanent nature and shall become a part of the Borough Code.

Section 2. Adoption of Section. MSB 1.10.141 is hereby adopted as follows:

1.10.141 AREAWIDE ANIMAL CONTROL

The borough may exercise the power to regulate, license and control animals areawide as provided under A.S. 29.35.210 (b) (2)

Section 3. Repeal of section. MSB 1.10.265 is hereby repealed in its entirety.

Section 4. Transition of Authority and Coordination with Municipalities.

The Borough shall coordinate with the cities of Palmer, Wasilla, and Houston to ensure seamless implementation of areawide animal care services. Existing contracts for limited services shall terminate upon the effective date of this ordinance.

Transition.

(1) Upon the effective date of this ordinance, all animal care responsibilities within incorporated cities shall transfer to the Borough, including enforcement, investigations, impound, emergency response, and related duties.

(2) Existing city ordinances for Animal Care and Regulation shall be superseded as provided under A.S. 29.35.210. (Ord.26-019)

Section 5. Effective date. This ordinance shall take effect July 1, 2026.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this 17 day
of February, 2026.


EDNA DeVRIES, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:


LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk
(SEAL)

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: Bowles, Nowers, McKee, Sumner, Gamble, Fonov,
and Bernier