

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

350 E. Dahlia Ave., Palmer, Alaska 99645

HEARING OFFICER

Scott A. Sterling



AGENDA OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS 350 EAST DAHLIA AVENUE, PALMER

LEVEL 5 RECOMMENDATION

10 A.M.

NOVEMBER 21, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. Any Prehearing Items

B. Hearing - OAH 25-03 – Chief Animal Care and Regulation Officer Recommendation of the Level 5 Classification of Cooper, Cody Fritz and Amanda Fritz, Animal Owners (*Order of agenda and timeframes or extension of timeframes are determined by the Hearing Officer*)

1. Opening Presentation by Borough Staff (*15 minutes*)
a. Denise Michalske, Assistant Borough Attorney

2. Opening Presentation by Animal Owner (*15 minutes collectively*)
a. Cody Fritz and/or Amanda Fritz

3. Victim Statements and Cross Examination
a. Levi Swenson

4. Witness Statements (*5 minutes - the board, the borough staff, and the owner/appellant shall have the opportunity to question witnesses*)
a. Denay Hardinger, appellant witness
b. Amber Miles, appellant witness
c. Jason Harbuck, appellant witness
d. Matthew Hardwig, Chief Animal Care and Regulation Officer, Law witness
e. Rachel Brown, Animal Care and Regulation Officer, Law witness

- f. Any Witnesses Designated on Appellant’s Witness List, Law witness
 - g. Any Witness Mentioned in the Record on Appeal, Law witness
 - h. Any Witness Necessary to lay the Foundation for the Admission into Evidence of Any Exhibit, Law witness
 - i. Any Rebuttal Witnesses as May Become Apparent at the Time of the Hearing Law witness
- 5. Closing Remarks by Animal Owner (*10 minutes Collectively*)
 - a. Cody Fritz and/or Amanda Fritz
 - 6. Closing Remarks by Borough (*10 minutes*)
 - a. Denise Michalske, Assistant Borough Attorney

III. POSSIBLE ORAL FINDING OR NOTICE TO TAKE UNDER ADVISEMENT

The Office of Administrative Hearings has original jurisdiction over recommendations of level 5 classification of animals. If the Administrative Hearing Officer rejects the Chief Animal Care and Regulation Officer's decision on the level 5 recommendation, the matter shall be remanded to the Chief Animal Care and Regulation Officer to set conditions of release prior to releasing the animal to its owner. The Administrative Hearing Officer has the discretion to make an oral finding to uphold or reject the Chief Animal Care and Regulation Officer's decision at the conclusion of the hearing or to take the matter under advisement. If the administrative hearing officer takes the matter under advisement, a written decision shall be issued within ten calendar days of the hearing. If the administrative hearing officer makes an oral finding at the conclusion of the hearing, the oral finding shall be supplemented with written findings within five calendar days of the hearing. The administrative hearing officer shall support the decision through written findings of fact. The administrative hearing officer shall provide the written decision to the clerk. The clerk shall serve the final written decision on the appellant, the law department, and the chief animal care and regulation officer in the most effective, efficient manner available within two days after receiving the decision.