February 23, 2022

Alaska Board of Game
Via e-mail: dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov

Re: Opposition to Proposal 167

Executive Director Tibbles and members of the Alaska Board of Game:

Best Friends Animal Society is a leading national animal welfare organization dedicated to ending the killing of cats and dogs in America's shelters. On behalf of Best Friends and our many supporters in Alaska, I urge you to oppose Proposal 167 during your upcoming meeting to discuss the latest round of regulatory proposals.

Proposal 167 would effectively prohibit the outdoor feeding of cats and dogs, whether intentionally or not, by adding these species to the list described in 5 AAC 92.230 (Feeding of game). Adding domesticated species would represent a significant departure since the existing list includes only wildlife species. Moreover, the proposed change would likely be seen by the state's many pet owners as government overreach.

Although the rationale for this proposal suggests that its adoption would "greatly simply [*sic*] enforcement" of 5 AAC 92.230, this is unlikely to be the case. On the contrary, law enforcement resources—already stretched thin—would be tasked with monitoring the behavior of the many pet owners living in their jurisdiction. Again, it's difficult to imagine residents accepting such an intrusive, heavy-handed approach. Indeed, it's difficult to imagine its acceptance by those who would be expected to enforce an outdoor feeding ban (wildlife troopers, police officers, animal control officers, etc.), given their limited resources and need to be seen positively by the communities they serve.

Again, I urge you to oppose Proposal 167, which would be overly burdensome to the state's many pet owners and law enforcement officers—and do little, if anything, to protect Alaska's wildlife.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,

Richard Angelo, Jr., Esq.
Legislative Attorney
Best Friends Animal Society