

## Alaska's Popular Mayor: STUBBS THE CAT by E. M. Fay

Showing remarkable staying power and consistently high ratings unusual for an elected official, Stubbs the cat has been the popular mayor of Talkeetna, Alaska for 15 years.

Talkeetna is a small town located near the base of Mt. McKinley, the tallest mountain peak in North America. As part of a designated historical district of Alaska, and with tourism an important part of the town's revenue, it is essential that the mayor be a personable individual, and Stubbs is certainly that.



As a kitten, the orange, part-Manx future mayor was part of a family that was put up for adoption from a box placed in Nagley's General Store. Manager Lauri Stec chose him and named him Stubbs because of his lack of a tail. Shortly after, when local townspeople didn't fancy any of the regular candidates for the mayoral office, Stubbs was offered as a write-in choice, and won the election handily.

Mayor Stubbs' duties are mostly ceremonial, so being a cat does not cause any difficulty with his tourist-greeting responsibilities, or keep His Honor from his preferred activities of napping, drinking catnip-laced water, and visiting various businesses in town.

There have been a few grumbles about his leaving fur here and there, and of sleeping on the job. However, such political heavyweights as former President Clinton and former V.P. Cheney have been caught cat-napping at important meetings, so when an actual cat does it, there is no shame attached.

And, most refreshingly in these days of dirty politics, Lauri Stec says of Mayor Stubbs, "He's honest." He may also be neutered, which would help him to avoid all the scandals to which other politicians have fallen victim.

Read more at:

<http://www.cnn.com/2012/07/17/us/alaska-cat-mayor/index.html>

If you decide to visit Mayor Stubbs to tell him what a fine job he is doing, then check out some of the other things you can do in Talkeetna: <http://www.talkeetnachamber.org/directory/hiking-walking-tours/alaska-nature-guides>