



**ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION 20190812 – 5h**

Date: 08-13-2019

Subject: Recommendation

Motioned By: Ryan Clinton

Seconded By: A- Lisa McClain  
B- Palmer Neuhaus  
C- Lisa McClain  
D- Katie Jarl

**Recommendation**

*Recommendations on mechanisms to receive or maintain lifesaving at Austin Animal Center.*

**Description of Recommendation to Council**

*Four recommended changes to city code 2-1-102 Animal Advisory Commission (attachment A) 3-1-21 Impound Facilities (attachment B) 3-1-23 Fee Waivers (attachment C) and 3-1-29 Sterilization (attachment D)*

**Rationale:**

*Attachment A adds clarity to the AAC by-laws regarding scope. Attachments B,C and D remove ambiguity regarding fees assessed and services provided to impounded animals.*

**Vote Attachments B, C & D                      A**

For:    10    9

Against:    0    0

Abstain:    2    3

Absent: one vacancy

Attest: *David Lundstedt*  
David Lundstedt, AAC Chair

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## Attachment A

### § 2-1-102 - ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMISSION.

- (A) The Animal Advisory Commission is established as prescribed by Texas Health and Safety Code Chapter 823 ( *Animal Shelters* ). The commission has 13 members appointed by the council. Each council member shall nominate one member, and the Travis County Commissioners Court shall nominate two members.
- (B) The council shall appoint to the commission at least:
- (1) one licensed veterinarian,
  - (2) one city official;
  - (3) one person whose duties include the daily operation of an animal shelter; and
  - (4) one animal welfare organization representative.
- (C) A member of the commission need not be a city resident.
- (D) The commission shall meet at least three times a year.
- (E) The commission shall:
- (1) advise the city council and the Travis County Commissioners Court on compliance with Texas Health and Safety Code Chapter 823 ( *Animal Shelters* ), city code, and council objectives;
  - (2) advise the city council on animal welfare policies and on budget priorities identified by the commission and the community, except on issues related to the administration of the Animal Services Department;
  - (3) advise the Travis County Commissioners Court on animal welfare policies;
  - (4) promote collaboration between the City and private citizens, institutions, and agencies interested in or conducting activities relating to animal welfare in the city;
  - (5) identify proactive, creative approaches to engage and facilitate communication within the animal welfare community; and
  - (6) foster and assist the development of animal welfare programs in the community.
- (F) The commission may study, advise, and report on policy recommendations it deems effective to promote animal welfare outcomes consistent with City goals and objectives as outlined by city council and the city manager.

Source: Ord. 20071129-011; Ord. 20080214-012; 20091217-046; Ord. No. 20141211-204, Pt. 8, 7-1-15; Ord. No. 20160804-066, Pt. 1, 8-15-16.

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## Attachment B

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### § 3-1-21 - IMPOUND FACILITIES.

- (A) The city manager shall establish one or more animal shelters.
- (B) The city manager, through the animal control supervisor, is the designated caretaker of every impounded animal on the date of impoundment.
- (C) Immediately upon intake, as the designated caretaker, the city manager, through the animal control supervisor, is authorized to and shall provide each appropriate aged impounded animal with core immunizations as defined by the Association of Shelter Veterinarian guidelines, by a licensed veterinarian employed by the city or by a person under the veterinarian's supervision, who is familiar with the common infectious diseases affecting dogs and cats of Travis County, along with any other necessary treatment the veterinarian determines is appropriate for the animal.

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### § 3-1-23 - FEE WAIVERS.

- (A) The city manager or the manager of an animal shelter ~~may~~shall waive a fee assessed against an owner reclaiming an impounded animal if:
- (1) the animal shelter intends to destroy the animal;
  - (2) the owner presents a written statement of inability to pay; or
  - (3) the animal is sterile or the owner agrees to sterilize the animal.

~~(B) The city manager may waive a fee assessed against a person adopting or rescuing an impounded animal if the animal is:~~

- ~~(1) unruly, infirm, or sick;~~
- ~~(2) aged; or~~
- ~~(3) eight weeks of age or younger; and~~
- ~~(4) the animal is sterile or the person agrees to sterilize the animal.~~

(B) The city manager shall not assess a fee to a rescue organization for accepting the transfer of an impounded animal. The term 'rescue organization' means an organization that is:

- (1) An organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and exempt from taxation under 501(a) of that Code; and
- (2) An animal rescue organization, animal adoption organization, or organization formed for the prevention of cruelty to animals.

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(C) The city manager may implement fee-waived adoptions promotions.

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**§ 3-1-29 - STERILIZATION.**

The city manager or the manager of an animal shelter ~~may~~shall sterilize an animal if it has been impounded two or more times.