FY 2022-23 Budget Rider

Budget Rider

Direction to fully fund a full-time Animal Behavioral Specialist position that works directly with animals that enables them to be adopted in FY23-24

Strategic Outcome Alignment

Government That Works for All

Lead Sponsor

Council Member Kelly

Cosponsors (*optional*)

Council Member Vela, Council Member Ellis, Council Member Pool, Council Member Kitchen

Amount and Source of Funding

Ongoing	One-Time	Revenue	FTEs	Source of Funds

Additional Information

This position being requested is for a Certified Animal Behaviorist. Animal behaviorists are professionals who work with animals to help manage, modify, and prevent problem behavior. This is a specialized position that would be critical in evaluating dogs with behavior challenges and help Animal Services maintain the city-mandated requirement of a 95 percent live outcome rate. Animal behaviorists are specially trained experts in the principles of animal behavior and animal learning with a set of science-backed tools, such as behavior modification. They will help identify the cause of a dog's problem behavior and then create a customized treatment plan. The source of funding for Austin Animal Center would come from the General Fund. The Austin Animal Center will initiate the search for this position after the ASO Efficiency Audit or by the end of 2023, whichever occurs first. It is suggested that the Austin Animal Center Director and staff work with the Animal Advisory Commission and stakeholders in developing a comprehensive approach and scope of the position before moving forward with initiating the search for a behaviorist. The annual ongoing cost is $143,764 and is funded by the General Fund. This rider is asking for $143,764, as to satisfy the correct appropriations for the beginning of the search for a behaviorist at the end of 2023. Therefore, the City Manager is directed to apply the full amount of $143,764 in the base bugdet for FY23-24 for funding at the end of 2023.