



Recommendation for Action

File #: 22-3507, Agenda Item #: 3.

12/8/2022

Posting Language

Approve an ordinance amending Austin City Code Section 3-4-7 relating to the ownership of vicious dogs and creating an offense.

Lead Department

Animal Services Office.

Fiscal Note

This item has no fiscal impact.

Prior Council Action:

On July 28, 2022, the City Council approved a resolution directing the City Manager to initiate amendments to City Code Section 3-4-7 related to the ownership of vicious dogs.

For More Information:

Don Bland, Chief Animal Services Officer, 512-978-0521; Kymberley Maddox, Assistant Director for Administration, Austin Public Health, 512-972-5041; Belinda Hare, ASO Agenda Coordinator, 512-978-0565.

Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

During the June 13, 2022, regular meeting of the Animal Advisory Commission, commissioners approved recommendation 20220613-03E requesting that Council amend City Code Section 3-4-7 relating to the ownership of vicious dogs.

Additional Backup Information:

The Animal Advisory Commission, with support of Animal Services Office (ASO) leadership, recommended revising the language to correct an apparently unintended substantive change to Section 3-4-7, "Vicious Dog," that gave only one option for a dog deemed vicious: that the dog can no longer reside within City limits. The language revision would align "Vicious Dog" with the Dangerous Dog ordinance which allows those dogs to live, with certain requirements, within City limits. Owners of dogs deemed vicious also would have the option to appeal the decision to Municipal Court, the same as dogs deemed dangerous under the dangerous dog statute.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Health and Environment.