



**AUSTIN ANIMAL SERVICES OFFICE  
M E M O R A N D U M**

**TO:** Mayor and Council Members

**FROM:** Don Bland, Chief Animal Services Officer *Don Bland*  
Austin Animal Services Office

**THROUGH:** Stephanie Hayden-Howard, LMSW Assistant City Manager

**DATE:** July 21, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Staff Response to Council Member Kelly's Budget Rider for an Animal Behaviorist  
(Ordinance No. 20220817-004)

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On August 17, 2022, City Council approved Ordinance 20220817-004 which included CM Kelly Budget Rider 2. This budget rider directed staff to include funding in the amount of \$143,764 to fund a full-time Animal Behaviorist Specialist position in the proposed Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget.

Because of the limited number of people qualified to fill this position, contracting the service was determined to be the best course of action. The proposed Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget includes one-time funding in the amount of \$100,000 to contract with animal behaviorists within the state.

If the proposed budget is approved, these funds will benefit the animals at Austin Animal Center and increase their chances at adoption.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at 512-978-0565 or [don.bland@austintexas.gov](mailto:don.bland@austintexas.gov).

cc: Jesús Garza, Interim City Manager  
Kerri Lang, Budget Officer