



Annual Internal Review

This report covers the time period of 7/1/2023 to 6/30/2024

Austin Animal Advisory Commission **(Official Name of Board or Commission)**

The Board/Commission mission statement (per the City Code) is:

Advise the city council and the Travis County Commissioners Court on compliance with Texas Health and Safety Code Chapter 823 (Animal Shelters); advise 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 Division; promote collaboration between the City and interested parties relating to animal welfare in the city; identify proactive, creative approaches to engage and facilitate communication within animal welfare community; and foster and assist the development of animal welfare programs in the community. 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.

- 1. Describe the board's actions supporting their mission during the previous calendar year. Address all elements of the board's mission statement as provided in the relevant sections of the City Code.**
(Reference all reports, recommendations, letters or resolutions presented to the City Council on mission-specific issues. If some of the elements of the mission statement were not acted on by the board in the past year, the report should explain why no action was taken.)

In FY 2023, the Austin Animal Advisory Commission:

- Received monthly reports on Animal Services and operations at the Austin Animal Center.
- Received quarterly or monthly briefings from Austin Pets Alive.
- Received briefings from City staff regarding the Animal Services Office Strategic Planning Process.
- Provided a forum for public comment and discourse on animal issues.

The Commission created or carried over the following Work Groups to study and possibly recommend action on these issues:

- Working Group on Public Contact with Wild Animals at For-Profit Zoos and Aquariums within the City of Austin
- Working Group on Finder to Foster Program
- Working Group to Stop Pregnancy
- Working Group to Discuss and Make Recommendations on Budget
- Working Group on Owner Intended Euthanasia
- Working Group on Spay/Neuter Contract

The Commission passed recommendations to:

- Amend Title 3 of the City Code to limit public contact with wild animals at for-profit zoos and aquariums.
- Approve a plan for Zilker Metropolitan Park only after certain changes are made to the plan to better protect and provide for biodiversity as well as the welfare of wild animals in the park, including two species of endangered salamanders who are indigenous to the site.
- To make updates to contracts regarding the provision of spay-and-neuter services, adding performance metrics and reporting requirements.

2. Determine if the board's actions throughout the year comply with the mission statement.

(If any of the board's actions were outside the scope of the mission statement, the report should explain the non-compliance issues.)

The actions taken by the Animal Advisory Commission throughout the year comply with our mission statement and support the stated goals of this Commission.

3. List the board's goals and objectives for the new calendar year.

(Make sure the goals and objectives fall within the mission statement of the board/commission.)

In the coming year, the Commission plans to continue to serve its stated mission by:

- Working to ensure that the issues documented in the 2023 ASO Audit are being adequately addressed.
- Engaging with the Strategic Planning Process to ensure that the interests of the public and community stakeholders are represented throughout the process.

Annual Review and Work Plan

Year

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- Seeking to find additional policy solutions to address space concerns and overcrowding at AAC and to alleviate the burdens placed on the community when open intake is not available.
- Supporting the City's ability to maintain its status as a No-Kill community by increasing adoptions, fostering, spay/neuter, microchipping, and other support services.
- Taking other needed and necessary action to provide for the health and welfare of animals in the community.