



RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

Animal Advisory Commission

Recommendation Number: 20260511-009: Expanding Access to Pet Adoption Through Satellite Adoption Centers

WHEREAS, the City of Austin is committed to promoting animal welfare, supporting no-kill practices at Austin Animal Center, and achieving open intake; and

WHEREAS, the Austin Animal Services Strategic Plan published in 2025 cites “Research, analyze, and explore additional locations to offer ASO services throughout the community (i.e., new satellite locations, secondary locations)” as Humane Care Goal 2C as well as “Expand ASO’s community presence, including increasing participation in local events, hosting new activities, and building partnerships” as Live Release Goal 3C; and

WHEREAS, overcrowding in our shelter strains our resources, greatly hinders intake capacity, and creates barriers to timely adoption; and

WHEREAS, increasing the visibility and accessibility of adoptable pets has been shown to significantly improve adoption rates and community engagement; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin owns and operates various public facilities and properties that may be suitable for temporary or permanent use as satellite adoption centers; and

WHEREAS, Travis County contracts the City of Austin as part of their Animal Services Interlocal Agreement and also owns and operates various public facilities and properties that may be suitable for temporary or permanent use as satellite adoption centers; and

WHEREAS, partnerships with local nonprofit organizations, as well as private businesses and community groups, could provide additional locations, volunteer staffing, and resources for off-site adoption efforts; and

WHEREAS, establishing satellite adoption centers in high-traffic, community-centered locations throughout Austin and Travis County would reduce barriers to adoption, increase foot traffic exposure for animals, and enhance community participation in animal welfare initiatives;

SO BE IT RESOLVED, that City Council and the City Manager request City staff across the appropriate departments research, and when appropriate, pilot satellite adoption center locations in Austin and Travis County; and

SO BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Austin City Council shall offer full support in finding ways to reimagine the utilization of City owned or rented facilities so as to minimize the cost burden on residents and the Austin Animal Services Department in pursuit of these goals; and

SO BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Travis County Commissioners Court shall take equal ownership and innovative steps in reimagining the utilization of County owned and rented facilities in pursuit of these goals.

Date of Approval: May 11, 2026

Motioned By: Commissioner Holt

Seconded By: Vice Chair Norton

Vote: 11-0

For: Vice Chair Norton, Parliamentarian Daniel, Commissioners Ahmed, Dulzaides, Ferguson, Holt, Huddelston, Loignon, Nemer, Maron, and Van Landingham

Against: None

Absent: Chair Nilson

Attest: *Nekaybaw Watson*, Staff Liaison