

EMAIL INQUIRY RETURNS FROM LOCAL/CENTRAL TX SHELTERS and ANIMAL CONTROL DEPARTMENTS					
City	Ordinance	Comments	Enforcement Details	Guidance Provided to Pet Owners/Shelters	Contact:
San Antonio, TX	Chapter 5 - ANIMALS Code of Ordinances San Antonio, TX Municode Library	does not currently have language that specifically addresses digging prevention (such as requirements for underground barriers or dig-proof fencing). Instead, the ordinance approaches outdoor containment more broadly by focusing on preventing animals from becoming free of restraint. From an enforcement standpoint, cases are typically evaluated based on whether an animal is running at large or improperly restrained, rather than identifying a specific failure mechanism	Under the ordinance, dogs must be confined or restrained such that they do not run at large outside the boundaries of the owner's property. The City defines "run at large" as being free of restraint while outside the owner's property, and officers have authority to enforce when animals are found at large or otherwise improperly restrained. The intent of these provisions is to ensure that owners maintain adequate and secure confinement to prevent dogs from escaping their enclosures as a whole, regardless of the specific method of escape (for example, digging, jumping, or damaged fencing). While not applied universally, the code does provide clearer guidance on what constitutes a "secure enclosure" within the dangerous dog provisions. In those cases, a secure enclosure is one that is designed to prevent the animal from escaping and to prevent entry by the public, serving as a reference point for what the City considers effective containment when heightened safety concerns are present. . From an enforcement standpoint, cases are typically evaluated based on whether an animal is running at large or improperly restrained, rather than identifying a specific failure mechanism	While not applied universally, the code does provide clearer guidance on what constitutes a "secure enclosure" within the dangerous dog provisions. In those cases, a secure enclosure is one that is designed to prevent the animal from escaping and to prevent entry by the public, serving as a reference point for what the City considers effective containment when heightened safety concerns are present. Guidance provided to pet owners generally emphasizes maintaining secure, humane, and appropriate containment based on the individual animal's behavior and needs.	Sgt. Charissa Brooks #293 Field Operations Supervisor EOC Liaison City of San Antonio, Animal Care Services 4710 State Highway 151 • San Antonio, TX 78227 Cell: 210.440.2144 • Office: 210.207.6630 http://www.saacs.net
Williamson County Regional Animal Shelter	https://www.wilcotx.gov/pets	Wilco doesn't enforce any ordinances			Alexis Fine Operations Manager 1855 SE Inner Loop, Georgetown, TX Tentative Schedule Mon-Fri 8-5, offsite on Mondays
Dallas, TX	SEC. 7-4.9. CONFINEMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR DOGS KEPT OUTDOORS.		If an animal digs a hole we are not able to do anything on that but any part that goes past that confinement is considered a loose dog. This is usually met with a criminal citation.		Daniel Alvarado Assistant General Manager of Field Dallas Animal Services 1818 N. Westmoreland Rd. Dallas, TX 75212 Cell: 972-768-3640 Email: Daniel.Alvarado@Dallas.gov
Bernalillo County (New Mexico)	Bernalillo County Animal Care Ordinance	An information brochure recommends enclosures include a 1-2 ft underground barrier, inward-bending fencing (~45°), and overhead cover to prevent digging escape	does not indicate prevention of digging; only their brochure	Bernalillo County Animal Care Services: Confinement and Restraint of Dogs- Bernalillo County Confinement & Restraint Brochure	
Elkhart County / Nappanee, Indiana	Nappanee City Animal Ordinance (PDF)	Defines "escape-proof enclosure" detailing that the kennel "must be buried at least two feet into the ground or secured to the floor" to prevent digging escape	Defines "escape-proof enclosure" detailing that the kennel "must be buried at least two feet into the ground or secured to the floor" to prevent digging escape		
Examples of Anti-Dig/Escape Prevention Requirements (ChatGPT-AI Search December 12, 2025)					
Gwinnett County, Georgia (AI Search)	gwinnettcountry.com	Gwinnett County's animal control ordinance makes it unlawful for a dog owner to let a dog leave their property unless it is securely and humanely enclosed within a house, building, fence, pen, or other enclosure "out of which it cannot climb, dig, jump, or otherwise escape on its			
City of Arlington, Minnesota (Older Ordinance)	arlingtonmn.gov	Arlington's animal control code specifically notes that a fenced enclosure must be constructed so it prevents escape by jumping, climbing, or digging under the fence. It even says if an animal escapes by digging, the owner must provide a floor (concrete, plastic,			
City of De Soto, Iowa (Dangerous/Vicious Dogs)	desoto-ia.org	De Soto's dangerous and vicious animal section requires that a pen or kennel confining a vicious dog must either have a secure bottom or have the sides embedded in the ground at least two feet to prevent digging under the walls			
Forsyth County, Georgia (Animal Ordinance)	forsythco.com	Forsyth County's animal ordinance defines secure enclosures in a way that requires containment systems where dogs cannot climb, dig, jump, or otherwise escape under their own volition			
City of Helotes, Texas (Dangerous Dogs)	City of Helotes	Helotes' animal care officer may require that a fence or enclosure be built so a dangerous dog cannot climb, dig, jump or otherwise escape of its own volition and can demand additional secure top or bottom measures if necessary.			