



MEMORANDUM

To: Keith Mars, Director, Austin Development Services ADS

From: Elaine Garrett, Assistant Director, Austin Development Services, ADS

Date: September 8, 2026

Subject: **Resolution 20250828 096 – Dog Boarding Facilities**

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update in response to Resolution 20250828 096, which directed the City Manager to prepare amendments to City Code requiring new dog boarding facilities to install a dog dig guard protection system—either placed at the bottom of fencing or incorporated through another comparable anti-dig design.

In recognition of Austin's strong pet culture, City Council expressed support for enhancing the safety of pets housed at boarding facilities.

Dog Dig Guard Protection Impact Analysis

To evaluate the potential impact of implementing best practice standards for dog dig prevention guards at kennel facilities, Austin Development Services (ADS) conducted a citywide survey through the department website and through stakeholder engagement sessions held in February 2026 and on March 2, 2026. (Insert community engagement summary here when available.)

Best Practices Review

Staff reviewed dog safety and fencing related regulations in the following jurisdictions:

San Antonio, Texas; Bernalillo County/Albuquerque, New Mexico; DeSoto, Iowa; Helotes, Texas; Gwinnett County and Forsyth County, Georgia; and Jessop, Georgia.

All jurisdictions responded with information regarding their existing protective ordinances related to fence requirements, restraint standards, dangerous dog provisions, tethering, and minimum space or care requirements. Comparable areas of regulation include:

- Adequate space requirements
- Confinement and restraint standards
- General animal care requirements
- Restrictions applicable to dangerous dog confinement

Financial Impact

Exploration of potential fiscal impact depended on the individual dimensions of the property turn out and secure area. Pricing was determined by the footage of fencing required. Estimated price ranges were from \$2 to \$7 dollars a foot.

This ordinance has no impact on housing affordability as it is an operational standard that only applies to dog boarding facilities. The Housing Department reviewed the proposed amendment code and determined that it has a neutral impact on housing affordability based on present conditions.

Summary of Stakeholder Considerations

Based on stakeholder feedback, staff recommend that City Code Title 4 (Business Regulation and Permit Requirements) is amended to add a new Chapter 4-24 to read:
CHAPTER 4-24 – KENNELS

This amendment will establish the requirement for a kennel with one or more outdoor spaces; a kennel owner must make the outdoor space escape-proof. Upon council's consent of this ordinance the effective date will be as described by ordinance.

Should you have any questions please contact Elaine Garrett, Assistant Director, Austin Development Services at elaine.garrett2@austintexas.gov or (512) 974-1991.