ORDINANCE NO. 20261022-006

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 4-16 TO ESTABLISH ESCAPE-PROOF REQUIREMENTS AT KENNELS AND CREATING AN OFFENSE AND A PENALTY.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

PART 1. City Code Chapter 4-16 (*Commercial Facilities*) is amended to add a new Article 3 to read:

ARTICLE 3 – ESCAPE-PROOF REQUIREMENTS

§ 4-16-31 DEFINITIONS.

In this chapter,

(1) KENNEL means a facility that provides boarding to dogs during the day or overnight and related services for training, hunting, or similar purposes in exchange for compensation or other consideration. A kennel does not include a veterinarian's office or an animal shelter.

(2) KENNEL OWNER means a person who owns a kennel.

(3) PHYSICAL BLOCKADE means a buried wire mesh apron, drive-in metal animal barriers, kickboards, heavy pavers, or concrete blocks.

§ 4-16-32 REQUIREMENTS.

(A) When an outdoor space is composed of real earth, dirt, or natural ground components, a kennel owner must make the outdoor space escape-proof.

(B) An outdoor space is escape-proof if the fence is:

(1) buried two or more feet into the ground; or

(2) supplemented with a physical blockade that prevents digging underneath the fence.

§ 4-16-33 OFFENSE AND PENALTY.

(A) A person who violates or fails to comply with a requirement in this article commits an offense.

(B) A culpable mental state is not required, and need not be proved, for an offense under this article.

(C) An offense under this article is a Class C misdemeanor offense, punishable in accordance with Section 1-1-99 (*Offenses; General Penalty*).

PART 2. For a kennel existing on or before October 22, 2026, Section 4-16-32 (*Requirements*) applies to a kennel owner on and after May 1, 2027.

PART 3. This ordinance takes effect on November 2, 2026.

PASSED AND APPROVED

§
§
October 22, 2026 §

Kirk Watson
Mayor

APPROVED: C Crosby for
Deborah Thomas
City Attorney

ATTEST: Stephani Hall
Erika Brady
City Clerk