

2018-2019 BUDGET QUESTION
Response to Request for Information

DEPARTMENT: Animal Services

REQUEST NO.: 106

REQUESTED BY: Houston

DATE REQUESTED: 8/28/18

DATE POSTED: 8/30/18

REQUEST: What do peer cities do regarding dog walking, if known? What actions have been taken by Animal Services to seek volunteers to walk dogs?

RESPONSE:

Austin Animal Services Office (ASO) does not know specific program guidelines for dog walking practices that are implemented by peer cities but we do know that most cities rely on volunteers to provide out of kennel enrichment to the dogs in their care. ASO has been working to develop a comprehensive enrichment program for all the pets in our care. We held enrichment work sessions with volunteers to get a shared understanding of what enrichment means, how specific enrichment (dog walking, playgroups, etc.) are define. We also plan to develop a system to better track which dogs are getting out of kennel and in kennel enrichment.

ASO actively recruits volunteers and conducts monthly orientations for those interested in volunteering. We actively post on our social media outlets for permanent volunteers and temporary one-time groups (schools, businesses, etc.) to come to the AAC to volunteer. This summer ASO partnered with the Mayor's Office to develop a volunteer recruitment video. The video can be viewed at this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lq_K8XnFZYk.