

Report for Animal Advisory Commission Regarding Mandatory Spay/Neuter on First Impound

Existing and Recommended Ordinance:

Existing language: 3-1-29 - Sterilization. The city manager or the manager of an animal shelter may sterilize an animal if it has been impounded two or more times.

Proposed language: The city manager or manager of an animal shelter may sterilize an animal upon first impoundment.

Information about FY 2015 spay/neuter as related to impound of animals

- 4,326 cats and 5,086 dogs came into the shelter unsterilized in FY15.
- The total intake of animals in FY15 was 17,750.
- 24 cats and 519 dogs were returned to their owners unsterilized after the first impoundment.
- Two cats and 216 dogs that were returned unsterilized after their first impoundment, were impounded a second time.
- Of those, two cats and 204 dogs were sterilized before return after the second impoundment.
- Waivers for spay/neuter on second impound were granted for four dogs because ordinance does not apply in Travis County, only in the city of Austin. Four dogs were returned because of poor health or old age and one dog was returned unsterilized because it had been stolen.

Community Input

This information was shared with the Executive Directors of Emancipet, Austin Pets Alive! and Austin Humane Society. AHS voiced their support for this change and neither APA! or Emancipet issued an opinion, but requested further information.

Fiscal impact

This will result in approximately 500 additional spay/neuter surgeries per year. These surgeries will need to be done at Emancipet. Currently, the cost is \$30 for impound if you agree to have your pet altered. The cost for spay/neuter surgery at Emancipet ranges from \$30 to \$65.

Waivers

The shelter may grant waivers in any of the following instances:

1. The animal is deemed by a veterinarian to be too ill or elderly to be able to be sterilized without posing a risk to the animal.
2. The animal resides outside the jurisdiction where the ordinance applies.
3. Any case in which the chief animal services officer or his/her designee identify an extenuating circumstance or a case in which the best interest of the animal in line with the recommendations of the No Kill Implementation Plan is for that animal to not be sterilized upon impoundment.