

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	74592	Agenda Number	3.
Meeting Date:	9/28/2017	Department:	Animal Services Office	
Subject				
Approve negotiation and execution of an interlocal agreement with Travis County for the enrichment and training of canines by incarcerated individuals for an initial 12-month term, with two 12-month renewal options.				
Amount and Source of Funding				
Funding is available in the proposed FY 2017-2018 Animal Services' budget.				
Fiscal Note				
No fiscal note is needed.				
Purchasing Language:				
Prior Council Action:				
For More Information:	Lee Ann Shenefiel, Interim Chief Animal Services Officer, 512-978-0521; Jason Garza, Interim Deputy Chief Animal Services Officer, 512-978-0536; Belinda Hare, Agenda Coordinator, 512-978-0565			
Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:	The two Interlocal Cooperation Agreements (Pet Enrichment and Kitten Fostering Programs) between the City of Austin's Animal Services Office and Travis County were presented to members of the Animal Advisory Commission at their regular meeting on August 14, 2017.			
MBE / WBE:				
Related Items:				

Additional Backup Information

For the past year, City and Travis County (County) staff have discussed the creation and implementation of two pilot programs, the Basic Pet Enrichment and Training Program and the Kitten Fostering Program, enabling incarcerated individuals the opportunity to train animals from the City's Animal Center that would both provide an enriching experience for the animals and provide job skills to incarcerated individuals that could potentially enhance their success after release.

The pilot programs will include both canines and kittens, and approval of this item will be for the Basic Pet Enrichment and Training Program for canines. Animals will be vetted to ensure the enrollment of animals without a history of unprovoked minor bites, or a history of attacking humans or other animals. Subject to the City's approval, the County will establish a screening process for the selection of resident trainers to confirm only incarcerated individuals with no history of violent crime towards humans or animals will be considered.

The City will sterilize, micro-chip, and provide food, medical treatment, and basic animal care to animals selected for the program. The City also will administer training curricula (six weeks for dogs and one day for kittens) to educate resident trainers on the basics of the specific species' behavior, healthcare and animal tendencies. The City also will conduct weekly pet health assessments and transport animals before and after each training period.

The County will ensure all resident trainers treat pets humanely and appropriately while in their care. Pets will be supervised at all times and resident trainers will follow specific guidelines for animal-care provided by the City. The County will immediately contact the City if a pet is sick, injured, lost, stolen, gets loose, dies, or exhibits any remarkable change in behavior.

