Animal Protection

Animal Protection serves the community by defending threatened animals from abuse or neglect, working closely with law enforcement to contain or help aggressive animals, assisting other agencies with wildlife such as coyotes or bats and ensuring that City ordinances related to animal welfare are followed.

Injured & Lost Pets

Animal Protection handles lost animals that need to be **picked up and/or are injured (http://www.austintexas.gov/page/injured-lost-animals)**.

Dangerous & Vicious Dogs

Animal Protection handles dangerous and vicious dogs in Travis County. Call 9-1-1 if a dog seems dangerous and is threatening. **View the Dangerous and Vicious Dogs page (http://austintexas.gov/department/dangerous-and-vicious-dogs)** ~~to find up-to-date dangerous dogs lists and a map of locations.~~ for more information

Animal Bites

? 311 ?

Call 9-1-1 if a person has been attacked, bitten or scratched by a domestic or wild animal and they need emergency care; if emergency care is not required, call 3-1-1 instead. Travis County citizens of the unincorporated areas should call 512-974-2000 for all animal protection and control issues.

All animal bites must be reported to Animal Protection. If medical attention has been received after a bite, download an **Animal Bite Report (/sites/default/files/files/Animal_Services/Bite_Report_Template_2016.pdf)** and fax it to (512) 978-0617.

Owners of dogs involved in bite cases must provide a current rabies vaccination certificate to Animal Protection. If the animal is not currently vaccinated or if the vaccination status is unknown, the animal will be placed in quarantine and observed by a veterinarian.

Animals that are currently vaccinated and that were restrained at the time the bite occurred qualify for home observation.

Forms

- **Animal Bite Report (/sites/default/files/files/Animal_Services/Bite_Report_Template_2016.pdf)**
- **Bite Affidavit form (/sites/default/files/files/Animal_Services/bite-affidavit-form.pdf)**

Animal Cruelty

In the event of suspected animal cruelty call 3-1-1 (or 9-1-1 if the animal is in immediate danger) to report the suspected cruelty.

Wildlife

Interaction with wildlife has become more common as Austin and Travis County expands, so please **follow these guidelines (http://austintexas.gov/department/wildlife-central-texas)**.

Ordinances

Animal Protection enforces **City of Austin ordinances (http://austintexas.gov/department/animal-protection-ordinances)** related to the selling of animals within City limits and the tethering of dogs, while also providing **fencing and dog house assistance (http://austintexas.gov/department/animal-protection-ordinances#fencing)**.

Animal Center questions?

RECENT NEWS

March 22, 2019
AAC Reaches Critical Capacity, Needs Adopters and Fosters (/news/aac-reaches-critical-capacity-needs-adopters-and-fosters)

June 29, 2018
Protect Pets During Fourth of July Celebrations (/news/protect-pets-during-fourth-july-celebrations)

View More News (/news-all/1580)

View Animal Protection's 6 minute video on Anti-tethering.

Animal Protection: Austin Anti-Tethering

OK

Top Content

Volunteer at the Animal Center (/department/volunteer-animal-center)

Foster a Pet (/department/foster-pet)

Animal Protection (/department/animal-protection)

Support the Animal Center (/department/support-animal-center)

Reports (/department/reports-1)

OK

Contact Info

3-1-1 (tel:3-1-1)

Physical Address:
Austin Animal Center
7201 Levander Loop Bldg. A
Austin, TX 78702

OK

See Map (https://www.google.com/maps?q=Austin%20Animal%20Center%0A7201%20Levander%20Loop%20Bldg.%20A%0AAustin%2C%20TX%2078702%0AUnited%20States)

Key Contact: If calling after hours or outside city limits:

3-1-1 (tel:3--1-1)

Open Hours:
Adoption/Reclaim Hours: Everyday by appointment only
Animal Intake: Mon.-Fri.by appointment only

OK

Organization Chart (/sites/default/files/files/Animal_Services/Austin%20Animal%20Center%20Org%20Chart%2010.29.20.pdf)

Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/AustinAnimalCenter/)

Twitter (https://twitter.com/austinanimals)

Animal Center questions?

Youtube (http://www.youtube.com/user/austinpets2011)

Yelp (http://www.yelp.com/biz/austin-animal-center-austin)

Instagram (https://www.instagram.com/austinanimalcenter/)

Add TIK TOK Media team

Contact Info

3-1-1 (tel:3-1-1)

Physical Address:
Austin Animal Center
7201 Levander Loop Bldg. A
Austin, TX 78702

REDUNDANT

See Map (https://www.google.com/maps?q=Austin%20Animal%20Center%0A7201%20Levander%20Loop%20Bldg.%20A%0AAustin%2C%20TX%2078702%0AUnited%20States)

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Organization Chart (/sites/default/files/files/Animal_Services/Austin%20Animal%20Center%20Org%20Chart%2010.29.20.pdf)

Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/AustinAnimalCenter/)

Twitter (https://twitter.com/austinanimals)

Youtube (http://www.youtube.com/user/austinpets2011)

Yelp (http://www.yelp.com/biz/austin-animal-center-austin)

Instagram (https://www.instagram.com/austinanimalcenter/)

Animal Center questions?

Injured & Lost Animals

Injured Animals

If the injured animal is lost, call 3-1-1 to make a report. If the injured animal has an owner:

- Animal owners are responsible for taking the animal to a veterinarian.
- Austin Animal Center **cannot** provide veterinary care for owned animals.

View a list of **emergency veterinary clinics (http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&client=firefox-a&hs=dda&ris=org.mozilla:en-US:official&um=1&ie=UTF-8&q=austin+emergency+veterinarians&fb=1&gl=us&hq=emergency+veterinarians&hnear=austin&view=text&ei=uf72S8KbDYLYM9mS8LMF&sa=X&o results&resnum=4&ved=0CD8QtQMwAw)** in Austin.

Lost Animals

Dogs and livestock in Austin and Travis County are required by law to be safely contained on the owner's property at all times. When off of the owner's property, **dogs must be kept on leash (http://austintexas.gov/department/animal-protection-ordinances#unrestrained)**, except when a dog is in a designated leash-free area. Tethering a dog is prohibited within the City of Austin by **City Code Section 3-4-2 (http://austintexas.gov/department/animal-protection-ordinances#tethering)**.

Resources

- **Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance (/department/epidemiology-and-disease-surveillance)** and **Typhus (/department/typhus)**Information OKAY
- **Managing Pets (http://www.aspcabehavior.org/)**
- **Living with Cats (http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/cats/tips/)** OKAY
- **Living with Dogs (http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/dogs/tips/)**
- **Virtual Pet Behaviorist (http://www.aspcabehavior.org/)** new source

If you found a lost pet, follow this link to help get it home
austintexas.gov/department/lost-found-pet

Home (/department/aac)
About (/department/about-austin-animal-center)

Lost & Found (/department/lost-found-pet)

Animal Protection (/department/animal-protection)

Services/Resources (/department/austin-animal-center-services)

Support (/department/support-animal-center)

FAQ (/department/aac/faq)

Reports (/department/reports-1)

Media (/department/media-1)

Partners (/department/rescue-partners)

TESTED OKAY

Dangerous and Vicious Dogs

Animal Protection handles dangerous and vicious dogs in Travis County. Call 9-1-1 if a dog seems dangerous and is threatening.

If you suspect a dog is dangerous or if a dog kills or severly injures a pet, or person you can ~~declare a dog either~~ seek a vicious or dangerous designation. You must submit a signed **bite affidavit (/sites/default/files/files/Animal_Services/Animal_Protection/affidavit_English.pdf)** to Animal ~~Control~~ PROTECTION

Owners of registered dangerous dogs are ordered by court to restrain the dog at all times in an enclosure or by someone who can restrain it. Owners must also buy $100,000 of liability insurance. Registered dangerous dogs should wear large tags stating they are dangerous. If these animals attack again, they could be put to sleep.

$250,000*

Dangerous / Vicious Dog Lists

The information about dangerous dogs in Austin is updated regularly but may not contain all current information. The City of Austin and APD do not authorize secondary dissemination of this information, and neither shall be responsible for any errors or omissions produced by secondary dissemination of the information.

- **City of Austin and Travis County Dangerous Dogs, updated (/sites/default/files/files/Animal_Services/Animal_Protection/Registered_Dangerous_Dogs.pdf)April 2020 (/sites/default/files/files/Animal_Services/Animal_Protection/Registered%20Dangerous%20Dogs%204.1.20.pdf)**
- **Dangerous Dog Information (/sites/default/files/files/Animal_Services/Dangerous_Dog_info_sheet.pdf)**
- **Vicious Dog Information (/sites/default/files/files/Animal_Services/Animal_Protection/Vicious_Dog_Info.pdf)**

(LINK TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS)

NOTE TO STAFF:
* update the Dangerous Dog ~~[illegible]~~ Information Sheet with CURRENT State REQUIREMENTS

Frequently Asked Questions

Dangerous / Vicious Dogs

What is meant by Dangerous Dog? A dog that has been deemed dangerous by a hearing officer or court has severely injured a person or threatened a person. Dangerous Dog is a State statute (law).

What is meant by Vicious Dog? A dog that has been deemed vicious by a hearing officer or court has severely injured or killed a dog, cat or other domestic pet, fowl or livestock. Vicious dog is a City ordinance.

How do I make a Dangerous Dog complaint? What happens after I make the complaint?

- Call 311*
- Give as much detail as possible about the incident
- 311 will open a ticket with Animal Protection
- An Animal Protection Officer will contact you and will send you an affidavit
- An Animal Protection Officer will arrange to visit you, review the affidavit and can notarize it
- If warranted, a hearing will be scheduled with a hearing officer
- If the dog is deemed dangerous, the owners must follow the requirements outlined in the Dangerous Dog Information sheet. (Add link)

*Note: If the injury was life threatening or caused permanent damage, the incident will be handled by the Austin Police Department and Municipal Court.

How do I make a Vicious Dog complaint? What happens after I make the complaint?

- Call 311*
- Give as much detail as possible about the incident
- 311 will open a ticket with Animal Protection
- An Animal Protection Officer will contact you and will send you an affidavit
- An Animal Protection Officer will arrange to visit you, review the affidavit and can notarize it
- If warranted, a hearing will be scheduled with a hearing officer
- If the dog is deemed Vicious, the owners must follow the requirements outlined in the Vicious Information sheet. (Add link)

Wildlife in Central Texas

?

The Austin population has surpassed 865,000 and continues to grow every day. With this continued influx of people, there's expanding needs for more energy, water, food and space to live. This urban expansion results in fewer natural refuges for animal species. This loss of habitat is the number one reason wildlife is moving into the urban landscape.

foxes Snakes, BIRDS, BATS

Wildlife in the Central Texas area includes coyotes, raccoons, possums, skunks and deer.

Living with Urban Coyotes in Austin/Travis County

As our community grows, there is increased opportunity for interactions with all kinds of wildlife – including coyotes. Coyotes are found in all 48 continental states in the United States and are firmly established in most major metropolitan areas including Austin and Travis County. Their adaptability and opportunistic diet make them well suited to urban and suburban landscapes where food sources are plentiful. If you have seen coyotes in your neighborhood, there are many helpful tips and techniques to deter coyotes from your area and ways to peacefully coexist with them.

How to deter and haze coyotes from your neighborhood (http://austintexas.gov/department/coyotes-central-texas)

Deer Feeding Ordinance

The City of Austin adopted an **ordinance (https://library.municode.com/HTML/15302/level3/TIT10PUHESESA_CH10-8INFEDE_ART1GEPR.html#TIT10PUHESESA_CH10-8INFEDE_ART1GEPR_S10-8-1DE)**on Feb. 23, 2009 prohibiting intentional feeding of deer.

The ordinance amends the City Code to add Chapter 10-8 which:

- Prohibits intentional feeding of or making food available to deer within City limits
- Creates a Class C Misdemeanor for violations
- Establishes a fine not less than $75 or more than $125

Effective October 1, 2013, enforcement of the Intentional Feeding of Deer Ordinance has been transferred to the Austin Code Department. Violations of the ordinance can be reported to the Austin Code Department by calling 311 or using their ***Citizen Web Intake Portal (https://austin-csrprodcwi.motorolasolutions.com/Home.mvc/Index)***.

Read more about **living with Deer. (http://www.austintexas.gov/department/deer-feeding-ordinance)**

Rodent and Vector Control

The Rodent and Vector Control program assists individual property owners with eradicating mosquitoes and rodents on their property. Read more about this **program, here. (http://www.austintexas.gov/department/rodent-and-vector-control)**

Bats

Bat season is March through November, the City of Austin's Animal Services Office and the Austin/Travis County Health Department want to remind the public of ways to minimize the danger of exposure to rabid bats in the Austin/Travis County community.

The basic message is: "Never handle a bat alive or dead with bare hands."

More information can be found on this **informational flyer (/sites/default/files/files/Animal_Services/Bat_Info.pdf)**.

Add "Bees and Stinging Insects"
The City adopted an ORDINANCE, Chapter 3-6, that Regulates the Maintenance and management of Bee Colonies within AUSTIN City LIMITS.
(LINK to ORDINANCE)

Home (/department/aac)

About (/department/about-austin-animal-center)

Lost & Found (/department/lost-found-pet)

Animal Protection (/department/animal-protection)

Services/Resources (/department/austin-animal-center-services)

Support (/department/support-animal-center)

FAQ (/department/aac/faq)

Reports (/department/reports-1)

Media (/department/media-1)

Partners (/department/rescue-partners)

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(1) this includes BUT IS not LIMITED TO, SIDEWALKS, DRIVEWAYS, FRONT yards, PUBLIC SPACES SUCH as parkland that IS not a designated off leash area and MOVING DOG to/from a car.

Animal Protection Ordinances

unrestrained (off-leash) DOGS,

The City of Austin enforces ordinances related to the tethering of dogs and the selling of animals within City limits.

Unrestrained (off-leash) Dog Prohibited

Except in public areas where restraint of a dog is not required (off-leash dog parks), an owner or handler of a dog shall keep the dog under restraint. A person holding a dog on a leash or lead shall keep the dog under control at all times. (1)

- **Unrestrained Dog ordinance (https://library.municode.com/HTML/15302/level3/TIT3ANRE_CH3-4REDOCA_ART1GERE.html#TIT3ANRE_CH3-4REDOCA_ART1GERE_S3-4-1UNDOPR)**
- (LINK FREQUENTLY asked QUESTIONS)

Tethering of Dogs

(LINK TO OFF leash parks)

Leaving a dog alone on a chain or a tether is prohibited by city law (Austin City Code Section 3-4-2)

- **Anti-chain Ordinance At-a-Glance (https://library.municode.com/HTML/15302/level3/TIT3ANRE_CH3-4REDOCA_ART1GERE.html#TIT3ANRE_CH3-4REDOCA_ART1GERE_S3-4-2REREDOPRPR)**
- **La nueva ordenanza en contra de las cadenas (/sites/default/files/files/Animal_Services/ley_cadena_1007.pdf)**
- (LINK FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS)

Fencing and Dog House Program

To assist citizens and dogs using a tether as a primary means of restraint, Animal Protection has a fencing assistance program. We will accept **fencing donations (/department/support-animal-center)** and offer them to citizens who need to correct their tethering violations.

Need help with fencing or a doghouse? Download the **Fencing Assistance Application (/sites/default/files/files/Animal_Services/fencing_app_0410.pdf)** or the **Doghouse Assistance Application (/sites/default/files/files/Animal_Services/doghouse_app_0410.pdf)**

and fax it to 512-978-0617. Forms can also be completed online:

- **Online Application for Fencing (/online-form/fencing-assistance-application)**
- **Online Request for Dog House (http://austintexas.gov/online-form/dog-house-assistance-application)**

For questions, contact the Tethering Officer at (512) 978-0519 for more information.

Pet Sales

The Austin City Council voted to impose requirements on the sale of dogs and cats in order to provide for the health and welfare of the animals sold, as well as to protect potential buyers. These regulations require that sellers spay or neuter each dog or cat prior to sale or pay a $50 animal processing fee to register the animal with the City of Austin.

Austin City Code § 3-2-3 (https://library.municode.com/tx/austin/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT3ANRE_CH3-2REAN_ART1GERE_S3-2-3COLIAN), "Commerce in Live Animals", provides that any "person who exchanges for consideration dogs or cats, including puppies and kittens, regardless of age"..."shall pay an animal processing fee" unless the dog or cat has been "certified by a licensed veterinarian to be incapable of being bred."

Any person who conducts a sale without first paying the requisite animal processing fee or providing veterinary documentation indicating that the animal is sterile commits an offense. Each unauthorized sale constitutes a Class C Misdemeanor, punishable by a minimum fine of $200 and up to $2,000 per animal sold. (**Austin City Code § 3-7-2 (https://library.municode.com/tx/austin/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT3ANRE_CH3-7ENPE_S3-7-2OFPE)**).

(o LINK FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS EXISTS)

Registering Your Pet For Sale

- To register an animal, click **here (/sites/default/files/files/Animal_Services/Animal_Protection/Breeder_Seller_Form-_Unaltered.pdf)**.
- To provide veterinary documentation that the animal has been spayed or neutered, click **here (/sites/default/files/files/Animal_Services/Animal_Protection/Breeder_Seller_Form-_Altered.pdf)**.

You may register your animals by mail by submitting the completed form and payment to the Austin Animal Center located at 7201 Levander Loop, Austin, TX 78702 in Building A. You may also pay the processing fee in person at the Cashier's Desk at the Austin Animal Center. Accepted payment forms include: cash, credit (excluding American Express), or debit, as well as personal checks. Please make all checks payable to "The City of Austin Animal Services Office."

Note that you must submit one form for each individual animal offered for sale. Once your registration is processed, you will receive a registration confirmation for each animal indicating that you have properly complied with City law and the animal has been deemed eligible for sale. Please keep a copy of this confirmation for your records.

The full text of the City Code § 3-2-3 is available **here (https://library.municode.com/tx/austin/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT3ANRE_CH3-2REAN_ART1GERE_S3-2-3COLIAN)**.
Frequently Asked Questions (http://austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/AAC/PetTraderFAQ_march2019.pdf)

Microchipping

Austin City Code § 3-2-3 (https://library.municode.com/tx/austin/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT3ANRE_CH3-2REAN_ART1GERE_S3-2-3COLIAN) also requires sellers to implant each dog or cat with an identifying microchip and provide such registration information to the new owner to ensure that lost pets can be identified and reunited with their owners. ~~Free microchipping services are available at the Pet Resource Center at the Austin Animal Center during normal business hours.~~

the Austin Animal Center will microchip and provide a pet tag for free to residents of Travis County, go to AAC, Pet Resource Center, from 11a-7p, during normal business hours.

the Austin animal center also holds free microchip events. Check our Facebook page for upcoming events.

(STAFF NOTE - the website media page is out-of-date (old news) Can these events go here, too?)

Home (/department/aac)

About (/department/about-austin-animal-center)

Lost & Found (/department/lost-found-pet)

Animal Protection (/department/animal-protection)

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Support (/department/support-animal-center)

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Reports (/department/reports-1)

Media (/department/media-1)

Partners (/department/rescue-partners)

Frequently Asked Questions

Unrestrained (off-leash) Dogs

Can I let my dog off-leash on my property that is not fenced, such as my driveway or front yard?

No. Dogs must be restrained in these areas.

My neighbor walks their dog around the neighborhood with no leash. (Has one in their hand - just not on the dog.) The dog runs up to people and other dogs. Is this allowed? If not, how to I report the violation?

No, it is not allowed. Here's what you should do:

- Call 311
- Say you are reporting an off-leash dog violation
- Provide as much detail as you can, including the incident(s) dates, name of the person (if you have it) and their address
- 311 will open a ticket with Animal Protection
- Animal Protection will visit the person
- You will be contacted by Animal Protection if more information is needed

Clear? Should we add that they cannot follow up?

(City Staff: can we draft/recommend/link a letter that the neighbor can send first, explaining the violation that the person can mail anonymously?)

I often go to City parks and people let their dogs off-leash in areas that are not designated off-leash areas. I am concerned for my pets and children. What can I do?

- Call 311
- Say you are reporting an off-leash dog violation on City parkland
- You will be asked if the dog is aggressive
  - If yes, a priority ticket will be place with Animal Protection who will come there as soon as possible
  - If no, a ticket will be opened with (City Staff: Does this go to Parks for the rangers to come out?)
- Provide as much detail as possible
  - Park name and location where the off-leash dog is loose
  - Description of the dogs
  - Description of the person with the dog
  - If the person goes to their car, if you can do it safely, get their license plate number and car make/model. You can give this to any follow up call
- You will be contacted if more information is needed

If my dog is restrained on a leash, an off-leash dog runs up to it and my dog injuries the loose dog, will my dog be euthanized by the City?

No. If your dog is properly restrained, there is no liability or consequence for your dog. If your dog is injured, you can pursue a vicious dog designation for the attacking/loose dog.

(Add link to Dangerous/Vicious dog FAQ)

My neighbor's dog broke through my fence and injured my dog/cat. My neighbor says "too bad." What can I do to prevent this from happening again?

Follow this link (to the Dangerous/Vicious dog FAQ) to learn how to file a Vicious dog complaint.

My child was nipped by an off leash dog. I know the owner of the dog. What should I do?

Call 311 to report the incident.

(Add link to the "animal bites" page)

Are dogs allowed to be off-leash on ball fields?

No. Dogs are only allowed off-leash in designated areas.

(Add link to off leash dog parks)

What are some tools I can use to protect myself, child and/or dog from off leash dogs?

- Ask the owner to leash up the dog
- Carry a deterrent such as "Pet Corrector", an ultrasonic device or an air horn which could scare the dog away

Frequently Asked Questions

Tethering of Dogs

I noticed a house with a dog chained to a tree. Is this allowed?

No, it is not allowed. Here's what you should do:

- Call 311
- Say you are reporting a tethered dog
- Provide as much detail as you can:
  - incident(s) dates
  - address where the dog resides
  - location of the dog, such as "backyard visible through the fence"
  - if the dog is in immediate danger (no food, no sun protection, etc)
- 311 will open a ticket with Animal Protection
  - Dogs in immediate danger will get a priority 1 ticket)
- Animal Protection will visit to the location
- You will be contacted by Animal Protection if more information is needed

Example letter about off-leash dogs:

Dear Neighbor,

You frequently let your dog off-leash in the neighborhood. This is a violation of City law that only allows off-leash (unrestrained) dogs in designated City dog parks.

You may not realize that your action is upsetting to your neighbors and forcing them to not walk their dogs in their own neighborhood for fear of it being attacked. Neighbors are concerned about walking with their children or pushing strollers for fear your dog will come up to them and cause injury. Elderly neighbors are concerned about being knocked over or injured.

You may think your dog is friendly, so what? That doesn't mean my dog is dog friendly or won't react if feeling threatened. If my leashed dog injuries your unleashed dog, you are could be held liable for all injuries to my dog. Your dog could also be declared a "Vicious Dog" which has consequences. This would be very unfortunate for all of us.

Please keep your dog on a leash (restrained) at all times. You can learn more about Animal Protection ordinances here:

http://austintexas.gov/content/austin-animal-center

Thank you,

Your Neighbors