

5-12-05
#46

RESOLUTION NO. 20050512-046

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

WHEREAS, in 1997, the Austin City Council adopted the goal of ending the killing of adoptable dogs and cats within five years; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, that goal has not yet been met despite efforts to find as many new homes as possible for unwanted animals through adoption and improvements in the rescue program; and

WHEREAS, despite these efforts the Austin Travis County animal shelter (the Town Lake Animal Center) still kills approximately 6,000 dogs and 6,000 cats each year due to pet overpopulation; and

WHEREAS, the only truly effective method to end the tragedy of pet overpopulation is to spay and neuter as many dogs and cats as possible; and

WHEREAS, it would be cost prohibitive for Austin's city government to take on the cost of spaying and neutering the many, many dogs and cats that need to be fixed but encouraging citizens and providing financial rewards for those who do so is a cost effective method to reduce pet overpopulation; and

WHEREAS, citizens who behave responsibly by spaying and neutering

their pets should not have to bear a financial burden to address the pet overpopulation problem, but instead should be rewarded for doing the right thing; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin has, for a long time, had a lower fee for registering spayed or neutered dogs and cats than for intact dogs and cats, but the difference has only been \$10 a year; and

WHEREAS, increasing the differential will increase the financial incentive and reward for people who are being responsible pet owners; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

That the City Council directs the City Manager to prepare an ordinance establishing a lifetime City registration of spayed and neutered pets and raising the annual registration fee for intact animals from \$15 to \$20 and place the ordinance on the May 19, 2005 City Council agenda.

ADOPTED: May 12, 2004

ATTEST: _____
Shirley A. Brown
City Clerk