




TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Kimberly McNeeley, Interim Chief Animal Services Officer 

DATE: June, 27, 2019

RE: Austin Animal Center Space Emergency

The purpose of this memo is to outline the capacity issues currently challenging the Austin Animal Center and the subsequent response to the situation. Intake at the Austin Animal Center has significantly increased this year, and the Center is on trend to intake approximately 18,000 animals this year; more than any year since 2014. As of today, the Austin Animal Center has no additional capacity to house animals. Each kennel, including temporary kennels, medical kennels and quarantine kennels, is occupied. Additionally, staff is housing and caring for animals in their office spaces.

In response to this emergency, both the Austin Humane Society and Austin Pets Alive! have agreed to select and take a large number of animals to be housed and cared for at their already crowded facilities or through their foster programs. Transports of animals from the Austin Animal Center to partner organizations will begin this afternoon. In support of the transports and housing, the Austin Animal Center intends to provide our partner organizations with emergency supplies (crates, food, bedding, cooling mechanisms, etc.) to collectively ensure the well-being of each animal.

The Austin Animal Center will work with the Austin Humane Society and Austin Pets Alive! to collectively make an appeal to the Austin community for emergency assistance. Aspiring to be the Nation's largest No Kill community requires the entire community to assist by adopting, fostering and/or donating. The collective pleas for support will utilize all forms of media and will begin immediately.

Please contact me at 512-978-0521 or kimberly.mcneeley@austintexas.gov if you have any questions.

cc: Spencer Cronk, City Manager
Christopher Shorter, Assistant City Manager