



City of Austin

Animal Services Office, Austin Animal Center

7201 Levander Loop, Austin, TX 78702

Pet Trader Ordinance Frequently Asked Question

On Thursday, December 16, 2010 the Austin City Council passed an ordinance amending city code sections 3-1-1, 3-2-3, and 3-7-2 relating to the requirements for the retail sale of cats and dogs. Below are the amended definitions and frequently asked questions.

City Code Section 3-1-1 Definitions

(9) **Pet Trader** means a person who exchanges for consideration dogs or cats, including puppies and kittens, regardless of age of the dog or cat. The term excludes the City of Austin animal shelter or a City of Austin animal shelter certified partner or a not for profit 501(c)(3) animal welfare organization registered with the City.

(8) **Off-Site Retail Sale** means the exchange of consideration for a cat or dog, regardless of the age of the cat or dog, at a location other than where the cat or dog was bred.

(11) **Retail Sale** means the exchange for consideration for a cat or dog, regardless of the age of the cat or dog.

FAQ's

What is a not for profit 501 (c)(3)?

An organization that is *not* established for the purpose of making a profit and that is registered with the Texas Secretary of State and the Federal Internal Revenue Service (I.R.S.) as a non-profit and tax-exempt organization

How do I become a City registered 501(c)(3) animal welfare organization?

Non-profit Rescue Groups and animal welfare organizations must provide their articles of incorporation and documentation showing they are in good standing both on their non-profit status and on their incorporation records with the Texas Secretary of State's Office and the I.R.S. Organizations must also be in good standing with the Austin/Travis County Animal Services and not have any pending animal cruelty investigations or animal cruelty convictions. The information provided will be reviewed by City of Austin Animal Shelter and then the group will be notified if they have been approved and registered by the City.

What is an Animal Shelter Certified Rescue Partner?

An animal shelter certified rescue partner is a non-profit rescue group or other animal rescue organization or shelter that has submitted documentation and has been approved by the Animal Shelter Rescue/Placement Partner office, received confirmation of approval, and been issued an ID number. These groups are approved to pull animals from the Animal Shelter to adopt out.

How do I become a City of Austin Animal Shelter Certified Rescue Partner?

Rescue groups interested in becoming a certified rescue partner must complete and submit a Partner Application Packet which can be found at

http://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Animal_Services/RescueApp_%282%29.pdf
or they may contact the rescue/partner office for more information Tlac.rescue@austintexas.gov
or call 512-978-0500.



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What is the difference in a Certified Rescue Partner and a 501(c)(3) animal welfare organization?

A certified rescue partner is an organization/shelter that has been approved by the Austin Animal Center's Rescue Program to pull animals from Austin Animal Center and adopt out from their group. A 501 (c) (3) animal welfare organization is a group that has received confirmation that they are approved and registered which excludes them from being considered a Pet Trader by definition. A City certified 501 (c) (3) animal welfare organization can adopt out animals but they cannot pull animals from Austin Animal Center as a rescue partner (unless they are also a Austin Animal Center Certified Rescue Partner).

Do the changes in the ordinance pertain to “backyard breeders”?

Yes. All people and businesses that exchange of consideration dogs or cats, regardless of the age of the dog or cat, must provide the consumer information required by the City, and they must either pay the \$50 fee, or provide documents showing that the animal has been spayed or neutered.

