



# City of Austin

## **Animal Services Office, Austin Animal Center**

7201 Levander Loop Bldg A, Austin, TX 78702

**TO:** Mayor and Council

**FROM:** Tawny Hammond, Chief Animal Services Officer  
Animal Services Office

**DATE:** December 5, 2016

**SUBJECT:** Animal Services Neighborhood Level Programming

Beginning in February 2017, the Animal Services Office will launch neighborhood level animal services in neighborhoods in the following zip codes: 78724, 78702 and 78617.

With this targeted engagement effort, Animal Services staff will work with residents to develop and deliver services and programs that will help keep pets in homes, reunite more lost pets with families and reduce the need for Animal Services assistance.

Neighborhoods included in this two-year pilot program are being identified through data analysis that includes:

- Higher than average intake of animals per 100 residents
- Lower than average return-to-owner rates
- High Animal Protection service requests called into 311
- An assessment of access to pet-related resources such as veterinary clinics, trainers and affordable boarding services

The Austin Animal Center intakes 1.5 animals per 100 residents for Austin-Travis County as an entire jurisdiction. However, intake per 100 residents in these zip codes average more than 2-3 times that of the jurisdiction as whole.

This program is funded through the \$1.1 million Maddie's Fund grant awarded to the City of Austin. The grant will fund temporary positions that will be assigned to and work in designated neighborhoods and provide engagement resources and pet-related needs.

The goal at the end of the pilot program is an animal services program model that works for neighborhoods needing more intensive services, which should ultimately decrease intake of pets and decrease nuisance behaviors in the community.

If you have any questions or would like more information, I can be reached at 512-978-0536.

Thank you.