ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION 10-12-2015-4-G

Date: 03/11/2021

Subject: Training and control of animals

Motioned By: Larry Tucker  Seconded By: Robert Shaw

Recommendation
The Animal Advisory Commission recommends adopting 3-2-8 as written.

Description of Recommendation to Council
At the March 4, 2021 city council meeting item #2 was pulled and sent back to the AAC for reconsideration. After lengthy discussion the AAC took no action and our original recommendation from 2015 stands.

Rationale:
Several citizens expressed concerns that section C, exempting livestock should be stricken. The AAC placed this exemption into our recommendation for two reasons.

1. To appease Rodeo Austin who opposed this ordinance on the grounds that it might be used against them.
2. Texas penal code Title 9 chapter 42 (42.09) already sets much harsher penalties for cruelty to livestock including class A misdemeanors and felonies, subject to jail time. The city of Austin cannot impose harsher penalties than already exist.

The animal advisory commission values all animals equally but understands that compromises must be made to enact ordinances that protect as many animals as possible. We are confident that enacting 3-2-8 as written accomplishes the most good for the most animals and in no way authorizes or condones any cruelty to livestock.

Vote
For: 10
Against: 0
Abstain: 0
Absent: 1

Attest: , AAC Chair