



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor and Council

**FROM:** Don Bland, Chief Animal Services Officer *Don Bland*  
Austin Animal Services

**DATE:** January 11, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Shelter Hours

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Due to staffing concerns related to COVID-19 and the difficulty in filling open vacancies, the Austin Animal Center will temporarily be closed to the public on Sundays starting January 23, 2022. Direct animal care staff and volunteers will remain on site to provide care.

This was a difficult decision, and many factors were taken into consideration, including first and foremost our ability to care safely and humanely for the animals in our shelter. Sunday was chosen based on intake-outcome data as well as the ability to redistribute staff to assist members of the public throughout the rest of the week.

Owners looking to reclaim their pet(s) on Sundays can contact 311 and request an Animal Protection Officer.

The Center will remain open Monday through Saturday from 10 am to 6 pm. We are diligently working to fill vacancies and appreciate your patience and understanding as we navigate these unprecedented times together.

Cc: Spencer Cronk, City Manager  
Ann Morgan, Deputy City Manager  
Stephanie Hayden-Howard, Assistant City Manager  
Animal Advisory Commission