City of Austin

Council Meeting Backup: August 28, 2025

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RESOLUTION NO.

File ID: 25-1776

WHEREAS, Austin is considered a pet-friendly city with a multitude of resources and amenities catering to pet owners; and

WHEREAS, according to the American Veterinary Medical Association, the population of pet dogs in the United States has increased steadily since 1996 from an estimated 52.9 million dogs to 89.7 million in 2024; and

WHEREAS, 58.2 percent of households in Texas own at least one pet, with dogs being the most popular; and

WHEREAS, based on a 2019 study from the University of Denver, it is estimated that 83 percent of households in Austin currently own a pet; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, Council expressed its support for ensuring the safety of boarded pets in Resolution No. 20230608-042; and

WHEREAS, in July of 2024, beloved pet dog, Wendy, went missing from a local dog boarding facility; and

WHEREAS, adding regulations that prevent dogs from digging under fences and escaping yards serves several important purposes, including ensuring public safety, protecting the welfare of dogs, and promoting responsible pet care; and

WHEREAS, by implementing best practices that address dog digging and escape, communities strive to create safer and more enjoyable environments for both humans and their canine companions; and

WHEREAS, installing a dig guard protection system along the fence at a kennel facility can ensure additional safety for pet owners and pet caregivers; and City of Austin File ID: 25-1776

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 WHEREAS, Austinites have consistently voiced their support for the safety and welfare of their animal companions, such as policies that increase the quality of life of pet owners and pets; **NOW**, **THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Manager is directed to prepare an amendment to City Code that would achieve the goal of requiring new dog boarding facilities to include a dig guard protection system at the bottom of or along a fence or other comparable anti-dig system. The City Code amendment should also consider when it is appropriate to require an anti-dig or dig guard system at an existing dog boarding facility.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to develop additional recommendations to improve the safety and welfare of animals at dog boarding facilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to return to Council with the amendment and recommendations by the November 6, 2025 Council Meeting.

ADOPTED:	, 2025	ATTEST:	
_			Erika Brady
			City Clerk