City of Austin

Legislation Details (With Text)

File #:	21-1109		
Type:	Consent	**Status:**	Agenda Ready
File created:	1/8/2021	**In control:**	City Council
On agenda:	3/4/2021	**Final action:**	3/4/2021
Title:	Approve an ordinance amending City Code Chapter 3-1 (General Provisions) and Chapter 3-2 (Restrictions on Animals) to add definitions relating to declawing cats; prohibit the practice of declawing cats; creating an offense; and establishing an affirmative defense.		
Sponsors:			
Indexes:			
Code sections:			
Attachments:	1. Draft Ordinance, 2. Recommendation for Action, 3. Backup Animal Advisory Commission, 4. Backup Letter of Support		

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result

Posting Language

Approve an ordinance amending City Code Chapter 3-1 (*General Provisions*) and Chapter 3-2 (*Restrictions on Animals*) to add definitions relating to declawing cats; prohibit the practice of declawing cats; creating an offense; and establishing an affirmative defense.

Lead Department

Animal Services Office.

Fiscal Note

This item has no fiscal impact.

For More Information:

Don Bland, Chief Animal Services Officer, 512-978-0521; Kymberley Maddox, Assistant Director of Administration, 512-972-5041; Belinda Hare, Agenda Coordinator, 512-978-0565

Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

During the September 10, 2018, regular meeting of the Animal Advisory Commission, commissioners voted unanimously to send City Council a recommendation to prohibit the declawing of cats and requested Committee Agenda Item Request #20180910-4a.

Additional Backup Information:

After extensive public input and discussion over the course of almost two years, the Animal Advisory Commission (AAC) at its September 10, 2018, meeting, moved to send a recommendation asking the City Council to prohibit the cruel and unnecessary practice of declawing cats within the City of Austin.

The motion was proceeded by eight months of meetings and discussions with veterinarians, cat rescue groups and consultations with the local veterinary association president who declined to attend meetings. The motion passed unanimously.

The recommendation will protect cats from unnecessary elective amputations while also preserving a

veterinarian's discretion in addressing the physical medical condition of the cat for a therapeutic purpose. Only surgeries done for aesthetic reasons or those done for convenience of the cat's owner would be prohibited.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Health and Environment