



Establishment of a Pet Deposit Assistance Program

Neighborhood & Housing Services

Item 6

COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST



Submitted February 16, 2024, by Council District 2

Background

- San Antonio is experiencing a high number of stray and roaming animals.
- There is a growing demand for individuals to provide foster or adoptive homes for animals in order to alleviate overcrowding in shelters.
- The expansion of placement opportunities will lead to a reduction in the necessity for euthanasia.

Request

- Establishment of an income-based pet deposit assistance program to support renters fostering or adopting pets from the City's Animal Care Services shelter or partner shelters.

CURRENT EFFORTS



Animal Care Services (ACS)

- Strengthened adoption customer assistance, increased behavioral assessments, accelerated medical exams, and increased rescue stipends through key partnerships.
- All pets adopted through ACS are spayed/neutered, vaccinated, and microchipped through affordable pet adoption options.

Neighborhood Housing & Services (NHSD)

- The Resident Relocation Assistance Program (RRAP) is the only program that covers pet deposits for eligible renters who are at risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability; at or below 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI); and facing financial hardships, such as unemployment.
- Provides up to \$3,000 for reasonable moving expenses within the city limits, including security deposit, application fee, moving company fees, temporary lodging, pet deposit, and utility security deposit.
- While a \$7.2 million pandemic-related grant helped expand RRAP funding for two years, it has expired, and relocation assistance expenses are currently funded by a \$100,000 annual General Fund allocation.

Staff Recommendation



Next Steps

- Staff will brief the Planning and Community Development Committee to get feedback on the program scope and better inform a future funding discussion.