

# AAC Dogs Being Euthanized Due to Space

TO:

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**SUBJECT:** URGENT: Action Requested- Stop the euthanasia of AAC dogs for space

**MESSAGE:**

Dear Austin City Council Members & Shelter Leadership,

As advocates for the welfare of shelter dogs in Austin, Texas, we are deeply concerned about [the list of dogs at risk due to the space crisis](#). This decision, especially targeting behavior dogs or long-term residents, is distressing and unacceptable to us and the community we represent.

Behavior dogs are not inherently dangerous; often, their circumstances are the result of human error or situations that were out of the dogs control. Lansom, for example, was in a dog to dog altercation and the finder was uncertain who the bite actually came from. Cashew is reactive when behind barriers and does not like being re-kennelled: neither of these circumstances would exist once he were to be in a home as he would not live behind kennel bars 23 hours a day. Are these reasons to euthanize a dog? These

animals deserve a chance at rehabilitation, not a premature end to their lives. Similarly, long-stay dogs should not be euthanized simply because of shelter operational issues, but rather be advocated for by leadership and management.

**We demand that the Austin Animal Center refrain from euthanizing any dogs until they have exhausted all viable alternatives for promoting fostering or adoption.**

The community is ready and willing to support these efforts, but we need to see evidence of effective plans being implemented before such drastic measures are taken.

Furthermore, we have received numerous reports of individuals encountering confusion, lack of assistance, and even being turned away when attempting to help during the recent pleas. This undermines trust in leaderships' objectives to remediate the space issues.

The recent statement on the "[urgent placement](#)" webpage is particularly troubling, as it implies a readiness to resort to euthanasia, without providing notice or rescue pleas. It certainly does NOT "help stakeholders emotionally prepare in the event that tough decisions are made".

We urge you to reconsider this approach and prioritize the welfare of these animals above all else.

We believe that real solutions that have been suggested time and time again, such as improved communication, consistent customer support, and proactive efforts to match dogs with suitable homes, must be pursued with urgency. Euthanasia should not be on the table until all other avenues have been explored.

We stand ready to work with you to find humane and effective solutions to the challenges facing the Austin Animal Center. The lives of these dogs depend on our collective action, and we cannot afford to let them down.

Please reply with information regarding how you and leadership will address the concerns of tax paying citizens.

Thank you.



