

## AUSTIN ANIMAL CENTER - SPACE CRISIS

# Boarding Breakdown

Shelter Management sends large dogs to boarding at a cost of \$5,000 per week to alleviate their chronic space crisis. This practice started in April 2024 and the City Manager has approved \$30,000 in the 2025 budget to support it.

### Shrimp's Story

Shrimp just came back from boarding after 2.5 months, due to a dog fight with a non-AAC dog. He has injuries all over his face, ears are fly-bitten, and his skin is in bad shape- unlike before he left.



### Hippo's Story

Last year Hippo returned after almost 2 months in boarding with injuries on his face and irritated/peeling skin. He became very scared of people, cowering and fearful, the opposite of his old self.



**Key Issue: No standard operating procedures are in place for boarding yet budget increases are being voted on by City Council right now.**

- No guidelines for selecting/monitoring facilities
- No oversight for ensuring minimum standards of care are met
- No clear criteria for selecting dogs (senior & shy dogs have been chosen)
- No set time limits or rotation of dogs
- Boarded dogs are not available for foster
- Adoption applications are not being prioritized (one adopter waited 25 days for a response & two others gave up after 8 days)

**Demand that dogs be housed humanely with appropriate shelter oversight before City Council approves any more funds.**

Email your city council member: <https://maps.austintexas.gov/GIS/CouncilDistrictMap>

Email the Assistant City Manager: [stephanie.hayden-howard@austintexas.gov](mailto:stephanie.hayden-howard@austintexas.gov)

Participate in the AAC strategic plan survey & listening sessions: [publicinput.com/asoplan2024](https://publicinput.com/asoplan2024)