

PLAN 2010

People-Powered Goals For San Antonio's Future





Plan 210 is the Beto for Mayor campaign’s policy platform, prioritizing public safety, infrastructure, and economic development. Launched on October 5, 2024—exactly 210 days before the municipal election—it reflects the insights and aspirations gathered from residents citywide during four months of community engagement.

ANIMAL CARE SERVICES

Taking care of San Antonio's animals is essential to the safety and wellbeing of both animals and residents, helping reduce stray populations while promoting a compassionate community where animals are treated humanely, creating a healthier and safer environment for all.



San Antonio has seen a rise in aggressive and dangerous dogs over recent years, with both minor and severe incidents reported. Many incidents stem from a lack of proper training and socialization. Dogs that are not exposed to diverse environments and interactions may develop aggressive behaviors. Dogs that suffer from neglect or abuse are more likely to exhibit aggressive tendencies. This can be exacerbated by inadequate veterinary care or living conditions. Current regulations may not be sufficient in addressing dangerous behaviors or ensuring compliance among pet owners. Enforcement of existing laws can also be inconsistent. There is a general lack of awareness regarding the responsibilities of dog ownership and the risks associated with aggressive dog behavior.

RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP

Responsible pet ownership is crucial in preventing aggressive and dangerous dogs. The bond between humans and their pets can be immensely rewarding, but it comes with the responsibility to ensure pets are well-managed, socialized, and trained. Irresponsible pet ownership, which may involve neglect, inadequate training, or failure to adhere to safety regulations, can significantly increase the risk of aggressive behavior in dogs. Addressing these issues requires a multifaceted approach that includes education, regulation, and community engagement.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- 1.** **Enhance Public Education and Awareness:** Increase community knowledge on responsible pet ownership and preventive measures for dog attacks.

KEY ACTIONS

- EXPAND EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGNS IN SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY CENTERS.
- DEVELOP AND DISTRIBUTE INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS (E.G., BROCHURES, ONLINE RESOURCES).
- PARTNER WITH NON-TRADITIONAL MEDIA TO REACH YOUNGER RESIDENTS.
- EXPAND THE ACS VOLUNTEER PROGRAM BY OFFERING EXTRA CREDIT TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, CREATE A SPECIFIC ANIMAL CARE CURRICULUM, AND EXTEND THE YOUTH AMBASSADOR PROGRAM TO INCLUDE RAISING AWARENESS ON RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP TO STUDENT PEERS.
- OFFERING A REDUCTION/DEFERMENT ON MOVING VIOLATION FINES ISSUED BY SAPD FOR VOLUNTEERING AT ACS.

- 2.** **Strengthen Regulations and Enforcement:** Implement stricter regulations and improve enforcement to manage dangerous dogs and behaviors.

KEY ACTIONS

- INCREASE THE FREQUENCY OF INSPECTIONS AND ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS.
- HIRE RETIRED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS TO EXPAND ANIMAL CONTROL 311 INVESTIGATIONS.
- CREATE A ANIMAL ABUSE AND NEGLECT DATABASE TO TRACK AND RESTRICT OFFENDERS FROM RE-ADOPTING.
- EXPAND EXISTING CITY GRANT PROGRAMS TO INCLUDE AND INCENTIVIZE FENCE MAINTENANCE FOR ELIGIBLE RESIDENTS TO PREVENT ROAMING PETS.

- 3.** **Promote Accessible Training and Socialization Programs:** Ensure that dog training and socialization programs are widely accessible and affordable.

KEY ACTIONS

- PARTNER WITH LOCAL TRAINERS AND ORGANIZATIONS TO OFFER SUBSIDIZED TRAINING PROGRAMS.
- CREATE A COMMUNITY FUND TO ASSIST LOW-INCOME PET OWNERS WITH TRAINING COSTS.
- EXPAND EXISTING PROGRAMS THAT PLACE NON-VIOLENT OFFENDERS WITH DOGS TO SOCIALIZE AGGRESSIVE AND/OR REACTIVE DOGS.

- 4.** **Enhance Reporting and Support Systems:** Improve mechanisms for reporting dog attacks and provide support for victims.

KEY ACTIONS

- DEVELOP A CENTRALIZED REPORTING SYSTEM FOR DOG ATTACKS AND INCIDENTS.
- IMPLEMENT SUPPORT SERVICES FOR VICTIMS, INCLUDING COUNSELING AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE.

- 5.** **Foster Community Engagement and Collaboration:** Build strong partnerships with local organizations, veterinarians, and community groups to address dog attack issues collaboratively.

KEY ACTIONS

- ESTABLISH A COMMUNITY TASK FORCE TO ASSIST AND COORDINATE EFFORTS RELATED TO DOG ATTACKS.
- HOST REGULAR FORUMS AND WORKSHOPS TO DISCUSS PROGRESS AND GATHER FEEDBACK.
- EDUCATION SHOULD INCLUDE READING A DOG'S BODY LANGUAGE TO BETTER HELP THE PUBLIC AVOID SITUATIONS THAT MAY LEAD TO AGGRESSIVENESS.

RESPONSE TIMES AND RATES

Dog attacks pose a serious risk to public safety and can have devastating consequences for individuals and communities. San Antonio has experienced a notable increase in these incidents, prompting a need for urgent action to improve response mechanisms and mitigate risks.

The current system, while functional, suffers from delays and inefficiencies that exacerbate the problem. Plan 210 proposes a strategic plan to address these challenges, focusing on enhancing response times, improving reporting rates, and implementing preventive measures.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- 1. Enhance Response Times:** Delays in response times have been noted, with an average response time of 45 minutes to one hour, which is insufficient in critical situations. Additionally, there is a lack of coordination between various agencies and limited community outreach regarding dog safety.

KEY ACTIONS

- ESTABLISH ACS SATELLITE LOCATIONS AT EXISTING CITY OWNED FACILITIES.
- RECRUIT AND TRAIN AN ADDITIONAL 20 ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS TO REDUCE RESPONSE TIMES AND ENSURE QUICKER ON-SITE ASSESSMENTS.
- DEVELOP A COORDINATED RESPONSE PROTOCOL WITH LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICES TO ENHANCE OVERALL EFFICIENCY.

- 2. Increase Reporting Rates:** This can be achieved by a comprehensive public awareness campaign, enhanced online reporting, and community outreach programs.

KEY ACTIONS

- LAUNCH A COMPREHENSIVE PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN TO EDUCATE RESIDENTS ON REPORTING PROCEDURES AND DOG SAFETY PRACTICES.
- DEVELOP AND PROMOTE AN ONLINE REPORTING SYSTEM TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR RESIDENTS TO REPORT INCIDENTS AND CONCERNS.
- ESTABLISH REGULAR COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENTS AND EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS TO ENGAGE THE PUBLIC AND INCREASE REPORTING.
- CREATE A PET CARE HOTLINE.

3. **Strengthen Preventive Measures:** San Antonio has regulations regarding spay and neutering, unaltered pets, microchipping, pet sales, backyard breeders, dog licensing and leash laws. However, enforcement is inconsistent, and there is a need for updated legislation to address emerging trends and improve compliance.

KEY ACTIONS

- PROPOSE UPDATED DOG CONTROL LEGISLATION, INCLUDING STRICTER LICENSING AND OWNERSHIP REGULATIONS.
- INTRODUCE MANDATORY DOG SAFETY AND MANAGEMENT TRAINING FOR DOG OWNERS TO REDUCE THE LIKELIHOOD OF ATTACKS.
- CREATE A PROGRAM FOR ASSESSING AND ADDRESSING AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR IN DOGS, INVOLVING MANDATORY EVALUATIONS KNOWN AS AGGRESSIVE DOGS.
- MANDATORY MICROCHIPPING TO INCREASE REUNIFICATION WITH OWNERS AND REDUCE THE NUMBER OF STRAYS.

SPAY AND NEUTER

Pet overpopulation remains a critical issue in San Antonio, resulting in high euthanasia rates, increased animal suffering, and strain on local shelters and resources. Spaying and neutering are proven methods to control pet populations and improve animal welfare. However, the availability of veterinary services for these procedures is currently inadequate. By increasing the number of veterinarians specializing in spay and neuter services, San Antonio can significantly enhance its efforts to address this challenge.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

1. **Increase Veterinary Workforce:** Recruit and hire an additional 20 veterinarians specializing in spay and neuter services within the next 24 months.

KEY ACTIONS

- PARTNER WITH VETERINARY SCHOOLS AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.
- DEVELOP INCENTIVES SUCH AS LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAMS AND COMPETITIVE SALARIES.
- INCREASE COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE TEXAS BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS (TBVME).
- CREATE INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS IN VETERINARY MEDICINE OR ANIMAL BEHAVIOR.

2. **Enhance Community Outreach and Education:** Improve public awareness about the benefits of spaying and neutering, and adoption, and provide education on responsible pet ownership.

KEY ACTIONS

- LAUNCH EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGNS THROUGH LOCAL MEDIA, SCHOOLS, AND COMMUNITY EVENTS.
- COLLABORATE WITH ANIMAL WELFARE ORGANIZATIONS TO HOST WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS.

3. **Expand Spay and Neuter Services:** Increase the number of spay and neuter procedures performed annually by 30% within two years.

KEY ACTIONS

- ESTABLISH ACS SATELLITE LOCATIONS AT EXISTING CITY OWNED FACILITIES.
- INCREASE OPERATIONAL HOURS AND CAPACITY AT EXISTING CLINICS.
- PARTNER WITH VETERINARY CLINICS TO OFFER A SUBSIDIZED SPAY & NEUTER VOUCHER PROGRAM.
- ESTABLISH MOBILE SPAY AND NEUTER UNITS TO REACH UNDERSERVED AREAS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LOCAL BUSINESSES.
- ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH MICROCHIPPING AND INTACT PET PERMIT REGULATIONS, HOLDING OWNERS ACCOUNTABLE FOR NON-COMPLIANCE.
- EXPLORE INCENTIVES FOR PRIVATE PRACTICE VETERINARIANS THAT DONATE SPAY AND NEUTER SURGERIES.

4. **Secure Funding and Resources:** Identify and secure additional funding sources to support increased veterinary hiring and expanded services.

KEY ACTIONS

- APPLY FOR GRANTS AND SEEK SPONSORSHIPS FROM BUSINESSES AND PHILANTHROPIC ORGANIZATIONS.
- DEVELOP A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP MODEL TO SHARE COSTS AND RESOURCES.

ADOPTION AND FOSTERING

Dog adoption and fostering play a critical role in addressing the overpopulation crisis in San Antonio, Texas, where shelters often struggle with overcrowding. Every year, thousands of dogs face euthanasia due to limited resources and space, with over 4,800 dogs and other animals being euthanized in 2023 alone.

By adopting or fostering, residents can save lives, provide a second chance to dogs in need, and alleviate the burden on shelters. Fostering, in particular, offers temporary homes for dogs awaiting adoption, helping them transition into family life while freeing up space in shelters. Expanding these practices not only reduces euthanasia rates but also fosters a compassionate and humane community dedicated to animal welfare.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

1. **Foster program expansion:** Increase opportunities for fostering and provide additional resources to increase likelihood of placement.

KEY ACTIONS

- IMPLEMENT A "FOSTER-FIRST" STRATEGY WHERE POTENTIAL ADOPTERS CAN TRIAL FOSTERING BEFORE MAKING A FINAL DECISION. THIS APPROACH INCREASES THE LIKELIHOOD OF SUCCESSFUL PLACEMENTS BY GIVING FAMILIES TIME TO BOND WITH ANIMALS BEFORE COMMITTING FULLY TO ADOPTION.
- PROMOTE FOSTER PROGRAMS THAT OFFER FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR FOOD, MEDICAL CARE, AND PET SUPPLIES.
- INCREASE ADOPTION AND PET-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY EVENTS THAT CELEBRATE RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP AND FEATURE LOCAL VENDORS.

2. **Enhance Community Outreach and Education:** Improve public awareness about the benefits of adopting and fostering.

KEY ACTIONS

- LAUNCH EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGNS THROUGH LOCAL MEDIA, SCHOOLS, AND COMMUNITY EVENTS, INCLUDING BILLBOARDS, TRANSIT ADVERTISING, AND TV AND RADIO.
- PROVIDE AN ONLINE INTERACTIVE CITY MAP TO HELP RESIDENTS LOCATE AFFORDABLE PET RESOURCES, INCLUDING SPAY/NEUTER CLINICS, PET FOOD BANKS, AND VACCINATION SITES.
- PARTNER WITH BUSINESSES TO SPONSOR ADOPTION EVENTS AND OFFER RESOURCES FOR ADOPTERS, BUILDING STRONGER TIES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.
- ENCOURAGE LOCAL BUSINESSES TO SPONSOR PETS IN NEED OF ADOPTION OR TO FUND SPAY/NEUTER PROGRAMS, CREATING A SENSE OF COMMUNITY INVESTMENT IN ANIMAL WELFARE.
- WORK WITH PET SUPPLY STORES TO OFFER DISCOUNTS OR LOYALTY PROGRAMS FOR CUSTOMERS WHO ADOPT PETS OR PARTICIPATE IN SPAY/NEUTER INITIATIVES.

3. **Accountability and Transparency:** Build community trust by increasing accountability and reporting, and providing transparency in euthanasia practices.

KEY ACTIONS

- INCREASE NETWORKING TIME FOR AT-RISK ANIMALS BEYOND THREE DAYS TO IMPROVE ADOPTION AND FOSTER PLACEMENTS.
- DESIGNATE "NO-KILL SATURDAYS" TO PRIORITIZE ADOPTIONS AND FOSTER PLACEMENTS, ESPECIALLY ON WEEKENDS WHEN THE COMMUNITY IS MORE AVAILABLE.
- SHARE A LIST OF ANIMALS ON THE EUTHANASIA LIST WITH THE PUBLIC TO ENCOURAGE ADOPTION INTEREST.
- KEEP AN UPDATED LIST OF RESCUE PARTNERS ON THE ACS WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA FOR EASY ACCESS.
- ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH MICROCHIPPING AND INTACT PET PERMIT REGULATIONS, HOLDING OWNERS ACCOUNTABLE FOR NON-COMPLIANCE.