



**CITY OF NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS
ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING
CITY HALL - COUNCIL CHAMBERS
550 LANDA STREET**



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2026 at 3:00 PM

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A) Approval of the Minutes from 8/20/2025 [26-491](#)
[Draft Mintues 8-20-25](#)

4. CITIZENS' COMMUNICATIONS

This time is for citizens to address the board on issues and items of concern NOT on this agenda. Pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act, there can be no board action nor board conversation on topics brought up during Citizens' Communication. If you have comments, please come forward, state your name and residency for the record, and you will have 5 minutes

5. INDIVIDUAL ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- A) Discussion and consideration of amendments to the [26-489](#) definition of "restraint" as it pertains to Chapter 6 Animals of the City's Code of Ordinances.
[Chapter 6 Restraint 2026](#)
- B) Discussion of an amendment to Chapter 6-78, of the [26-492](#) City's Code of Ordinances regarding keeping of wild animals.
[HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE CHAPTER 822. REGULATION OF ANIMALS](#)
[Sec. 6 78. Keeping of wild animals.](#)

6. ADJOURNMENT

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify the above Notice of Meeting was posted on the bulletin board at the New Braunfels City Hall.

Board Liaison

NOTE: Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who may need auxiliary aids or services such as interpreters for persons who are deaf or hearing impaired, readers, or large print, are requested to contact the City Secretary's Office at (830) 221-4010 at least two (2) work days prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.



Animal Services Advisory Board Agenda Item Report

550 Landa Street
New Braunfels, TX

4/22/2026

Agenda Item No. A)

SUBJECT:

Approval of the Minutes from 8/20/2025

DEPARTMENT: Neighborhood & Community Planning

**DRAFT - MINUTES
OF THE NEW BRAUNFELS ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2025**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Eric Trager called the meeting to order at 302PM.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll Call was called, Chair Eric Trager, Sarah Hammond, RElizabeth Gooden, Adrianna McDonald, were present. Robert Blythin was absent.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) Approval of the 7/10/2024 meeting minutes

Sarah Hammond asked for the motion to approve the minutes from 7/10/24. Elizabeth Gooden was the second to approve the minutes. Roll was called again and all present members voted to approve the minutes from 7/10/24.

4. CITIZENS' COMMUNICATIONS

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At 304pm the board opened the meeting to citizens communication. No citizens stepped forward to speak. Citizens communication was closed at 305pm.

5. INDIVIDUAL ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

A) Consideration and recommendation to City Council on an ordinance to amend Chapter 6-109, of the City's Code of Ordinance regarding home quarantine.

At 508pm a review of the current quarantine process was presented reasons why the local code should be changed were also discussed. Bryan Ruiz gave list of recommended changes to Chapter 6-109 stating the changes would be consistent with state code.

Discussion about if the animal would be allowed to do a telemed visit

took place. Sarah Hammond asked if the animal would be eligible for home quarantine if the animal was not up to date on the rabies vaccine, it was stated that if the animal was not up to date on their rabies vaccine they must quarantine at a facility. Board opened this up for public comment, no citizens stepped up to speak public comment period was closed.

Eric Trager asked if there was a motion, Sarah Hammoned motioned to approve. Elizabeth Gooden second the motion.Roll call was done Eric Trager, Sarah Hammond, Elizabeth Gooden and Adriana McDonald all voted to approve the updates to the city's quarantine policy.

B) Provide an update to the Animal Services Advisory Board on the ordinances that were adopted by City Council in May of 2025.

Bryan Ruiz gave the board updates on the ordinances that City Council adopted in May 2025. Bryan Ruiz went over the definition of aggressive and dangerous dogs. Levels of aggression in dogs were discussed as well as the new process for dangerous dog classification. Amendments to the home quarantine policy, and process of when a domestic animal is exposed to a rabid animal.was also explained.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 3:21PM

By: _____
ERIC TRAGER

Attest:

SAMANTHA CALDER, BOARD LIAISON

4/22/2026

Agenda Item No. A)

PRESENTER:

Bryan V. Ruiz, Neighborhood Services Manager

SUBJECT:

Discussion and consideration of amendments to the definition of “restraint” as it pertains to Chapter 6 Animals of the City’s Code of Ordinances.

DEPARTMENT: Neighborhood and Community Planning

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: All

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

During last year’s discussions regarding the change to the Dangerous and Aggressive Dog Ordinance, the Animal Services Advisory Board (ASAB) also discussed the definition of “restraint”. While a minor revision was made at that time, the definition itself has not undergone a comprehensive update since the original adoption of the local code.

As staff continue to engage with residents, additional concerns have been raised about how the term “restraint” is interpreted and applied. These conversations have highlighted the need for clearer, more contemporary language to support consistent understanding and enforcement.

City staff conducted a review of benchmark city ordinances to evaluate how “restraint” is defined in comparable jurisdictions. Draft edits reflecting this analysis is submitted for your consideration.

ISSUE:

The City’s current definition of “restraint” has not been updated in many years. As a result, the language no longer reflects modern standards or community expectations. An updated definition is needed to provide clearer guidance for both city staff and the public, ensuring the ordinance is easier to understand and consistently applied.

STRATEGIC PLAN REFERENCE:

- Economic Mobility Enhanced Connectivity Community Identity
- Organizational Excellence Community Well-Being N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the ordinance amendment. Staff’s and ASAB’s recommendations will then be forwarded to City Council for consideration.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026- ____

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS, AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 6, ANIMALS, ARTICLE I, TO UPDATE RESTRAINT DEFINITION; REPEALING ALL LAWS IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, PUBLICATION AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Whereas, the City Council of the City of New Braunfels, Texas finds that these regulations are a proper exercise of its authority as a home-rule municipality, and further finds that these amendments are necessary to protect the health and safety of its citizens.

Whereas, the City Council of the City of New Braunfels, Texas, as authorized under the Texas Local Government Code, has adopted and employed ordinances establishing the New Braunfels Animal Services Advisory Board; and

Whereas, the City Council amends its ordinances from time to time to ensure they are achieving community and citizen goals; and

Whereas, the City Council has directed that ordinance dealing with the care of pets be reviewed by the Animal Services Advisory Board to make recommendations concerning improving those regulations; and

Whereas, the Animal Services Advisory Board at a public meeting on April 22, 2026 recommended approval of the proposed amendments; and

Whereas, the City Council heard a presentation and held a public hearing on this topic at their **DATE** meeting at which time they directed staff to bring forward for consideration amendments that would update the local ordinances and address citizen concerns; and

Whereas, the City Council considered the first reading on said amendments on **DATE**, and a second reading on **DATE**.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS:

SECTION1: That the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 6-1 Animals, Article I be amended as follows with underlined font indicating added language and strikethrough font indicating deleted language:

ARTICLE I. Definitions

Sec. 6-1. Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this section, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Restraint

- (1) means that an animal is secured by a leash or lead that is physically held or otherwise physically connected to a ~~and under the control of a~~ responsible person, including but not limited to being held in the hand, attached to the person's body, or secured to a mobility device under the persons control, such that the person maintains immediate physical control of the animal and the animal is obedient to that person's commands. The animal shall also be secured by a leash or lead no longer than six (6) feet when in any public area or city park. ~~and obedient to that person's commands.~~
- (2) means at all other times, a dog or other such animal shall be confined to the realty or premises of the owner of such dog or other animal by a ~~substantial~~ physical fence of sufficient strength and height to prevent such dog or other animal from escaping therefrom; or inside a house on such premises; or secured on such premises by a leash, lead or tether consisting of a material of sufficient strength to prevent such dog or other animal from escaping from such premises. It shall be unlawful for the leash, lead or tether to be arranged in a manner that allows the dog or other animal to get on or across or within eight feet of any street, park, or other public land or within eight feet of any sidewalk, public way, place or building when such leash, lead or tether is stretched to its full length. Any animal so arranged shall be declared a nuisance and shall be impounded. Although cats shall be exempt from the leash, lead or tether requirement while on the premises of the owner, any cat straying on the property of anyone except its owner shall be deemed a public nuisance animal and will be subject to impoundment.

SECTION 2: This Ordinance shall be and is hereby declared to be cumulative to all other ordinances of the City of New Braunfels relating to animals within the City of New Braunfels, and same shall not operate to repeal or affect any such ordinance or ordinances except insofar as the provisions of such ordinance or ordinances are inconsistent or in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance, in which instance or instances those provisions shall be and they are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3: That if any provisions of this Ordinance shall be held void, illegal, or unconstitutional, it is hereby provided that all other parts of the same which are not held void, illegal or unconstitutional shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 4: EFFECTIVE DATE AND PUBLICATION:

This Ordinance shall become adopted upon its second reading, signature, and filing with the City Secretary's Office; however, it will not take effect until it has been published in a newspaper of general circulation at least one time within ten (10) days after its final passage, as required by the City Charter of the City of New Braunfels.

PASSED AND APPROVED: First reading this ____ day of _____, 2026.

PASSED AND APPROVED: Second reading this ____ day of _____, 2026.

CITY OF NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS

NEAL LINNARTZ, Mayor

ATTEST:

Gayle Wilkinson, City Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Valeria M. Acevedo, City Attorney

4/22/2026

Agenda Item No. B)

PRESENTER:

Joshua Jimenez, Senior Animal Welfare & Rescue Officer & Jorge Moya, Animal Welfare & Rescue Officer II

SUBJECT:

Discussion of an amendment to Chapter 6-78, of the City’s Code of Ordinances regarding keeping of wild animals.

DEPARTMENT: Neighborhood and Community Planning

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: All

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The current ordinance uses a broad definition of “wild animals,” which effectively prohibits ownership of all non-domestic species. In practice, when the City receives calls about exotic pets, it is often found that these animals are legally purchased, responsibly cared for, and pose no public health or safety issues. Residents frequently reach out seeking guidance on how to legally own exotic animals within the city limits, but under the current ordinance, those conversations end before they can begin.

A potential change would not be intended to encourage exotic pet ownership. Instead, it aims to bring the City’s local regulations into alignment with state law and provide clearer, more practical guidance for residents.

ISSUE:

The current ordinance uses a broad definition that restricts ownership of many animals, including non-dangerous exotic species. Updating the ordinance would allow residents to legally own certain exotic animals consistent with what state law already permits while still prohibiting genuinely dangerous species. This change would provide clear, specific guidance on which animals are allowed and which are not, creating a more practical and enforceable ordinance.

STRATEGIC PLAN REFERENCE:

- Economic Mobility
- Enhanced Connectivity
- Community Identity
- Organizational Excellence
- Community Well-Being
- N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff is seeking the board’s recommendation to prepare a draft ordinance for consideration of a recommendation at the next ASAB meeting.

SUBCHAPTER E. DANGEROUS WILD ANIMALS

Sec. 822.101. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Animal registration agency" means the municipal or county animal control office with authority over the area where a dangerous wild animal is kept or a county sheriff in an area that does not have an animal control office.

(2) Repealed by Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1, Sec. 3.1639(119), eff. April 2, 2015.

(3) "Commercial activity" means:

(A) an activity involving a dangerous wild animal conducted for profit that is not inherent to the animal's nature;

(B) an activity for which a fee is charged and that is entertainment using or an exhibition of the animal; or

(C) the selling, trading, bartering, or auctioning of a dangerous wild animal or a dangerous wild animal's body parts.

(4) "Dangerous wild animal" means:

(A) a lion;

(B) a tiger;

(C) an ocelot;

(D) a cougar;

(E) a leopard;

(F) a cheetah;

(G) a jaguar;

(H) a bobcat;

(I) a lynx;

(J) a serval;

(K) a caracal;

(L) a hyena;

(M) a bear;

(N) a coyote;

(O) a jackal;

(P) a baboon;

(Q) a chimpanzee;

(R) an orangutan;

(S) a gorilla; or

(T) any hybrid of an animal listed in this subdivision.

(4-a) "Executive commissioner" means the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission.

(5) "Owner" means any person who owns, harbors, or has custody or control of a dangerous wild animal.

(6) "Person" means an individual, partnership, corporation, trust, estate, joint stock company, foundation, or association of individuals.

(7) "Primary enclosure" means any structure used to immediately restrict an animal to a limited amount of space, including a cage, pen, run, room, compartment, or hutch.

Added by Acts 2001, 77th Leg., ch. 54, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 2001.

Amended by:

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1 (S.B. 219), Sec. 3.1599, eff. April 2, 2015.

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1 (S.B. 219), Sec. 3.1639(119), eff. April 2, 2015.

Sec. 822.102. APPLICABILITY OF SUBCHAPTER. (a) This subchapter does not apply to:

(1) a county, municipality, or agency of the state or an agency of the United States or an agent or official of a county, municipality, or agency acting in an official capacity;

(2) a research facility, as that term is defined by Section 2(e), Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. Section 2132), and its subsequent amendments, that is licensed by the secretary of agriculture of the United States under that Act;

(3) an organization that is an accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums;

(4) an injured, infirm, orphaned, or abandoned dangerous wild animal while being transported for care or treatment;

(5) an injured, infirm, orphaned, or abandoned dangerous wild animal while being rehabilitated, treated, or cared for by a licensed veterinarian, an incorporated humane society or

Sec. 6-78. Keeping of wild animals.

- (a) No person shall own, possess, or have custody of on his premises any wild or vicious animal, including a reptile, for display, training, or exhibition purposes, whether gratuitously or for a fee. This section shall not be construed to apply to zoological parks, performing animal exhibitions, circuses, or veterinary hospitals.
- (b) No person shall keep or permit to be kept any wild animal, including a poisonous or otherwise dangerous reptile, as a pet, unless licensed to do so by the state parks and wildlife department.

(Code 1961, § 3-12)