

Instructions

This document is a fill-in form. Tab through the document to type in your answers in the fields below. Don't worry about space, the text fields will expand if needed. When you're done, email the completed form to [REDACTED]. Thank you for your time.

Josiah James Ingalls

- 1. In October 2007, the City Council voted to relocate Austin's animal shelter to the eastern edge of the City, but only if the newest building at the current shelter were kept open as an adoption center. Shelter staff, who did not support the adoption center, have not developed a plan for the center or allocated any bond money to prepare the building, currently used for administration, to house animals.**

- A. What steps, if any, will you take to ensure that shelter management fulfills Council's mandate for a downtown adoption center?**

I would meet with the current employees of Austin's Animal Shelter and inform them that the City has made a ruling and if they can not comply with the ruling of the City then I would inform them that I would do everything I can to abide by the City's ruling even if that means replacing employees.

- B. Will you commit to supporting a downtown adoption center that is open the same hours as the main shelter, and where adoptable animals can stay full-time until they are adopted?**

Yes

- C. Would you support an expansion of the proposed adoption center to include more of the existing shelter buildings, such as the adoption dog kennels?**

I think all of the existing shelter buildings should be used for the adoption center.

- 2. While there was a significant decline in the number of cats entering the shelter in 2008, the number of adoptions from Austin's pound has not seen a significant increase. The number of animals leaving through placement**

partner groups would have actually decreased last year if it were not for the work of a single new nonprofit group. Would you commit to demanding the implementation of proven programs that have increased positive outcomes at other shelters---such as off-site adoptions and a large-scale foster program? If so, would you be willing to direct budgetary expenditures towards those programs?

I would be for these programs. As for the budget I would do everything I can to fund them appropretly as long as that funding does not come from emergency services or other social services.

3. Since 2000 when the current shelter director took over, Austin's pound has killed an average of 52.4 percent of impounded animals (about 12,000 animals each year). During the same period, the annual budget has increased from below \$3 million to nearly \$6 million. Other communities across the country have implemented common sense and innovative methods to reduce their shelter kill rate to under 10% of all impounded animals, often in just one or two years.

A. Would you commit to making “no kill”—defined as killing less than 10% of pets sheltered at the community’s open-admission shelter—the official policy of Austin and support any laws or policy changes necessary to achieve this goal?

No I would not. Instead I would ammend Austin's laws and policies to state no animal is to be killed unless it has a disease that makes it necessary or an animal is too aggressive for the safety of the citizens and the other animals.

B. Given the track record of shelter management, do you believe it's time for a new direction? If yes, would you consider hiring a consultant with demonstrated experience in achieving “no kill” to evaluate Austin’s shelter?

Yes I do believe it's time for a new direction and I would also consider hiring a consultant to evaluate the shelter.

- C. Would you support the implementation of performance standards that tie management performance to salary increments or bonuses or continued employment? If not, please explain why not.**

I would insist on this. It insures for good practice of business.

- 4. Two audits by the State of Texas, plus multiple independent checks, have revealed that on most days, Austin's shelter keeps more than 100 cages empty and unused while it continues killing healthy, non-aggressive animals.**

- A. Would you require TLAC to explain this policy? Please explain why or why not.**

I would require them to explain why it is a policy now, but I also would require them to terminate that policy.

- B. Would you commit to supporting a moratorium on convenience killing at Austin's shelter---i.e., the killing of animals that are neither suffering nor aggressive while dozens of cages sit empty? Please explain why or why not.**

I would support terminating the policy of convenience killing of animals that are neither suffering nor aggressive.

- 5. Shelter management has discretion to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars in annual donations to the shelter, yet public documents do not make clear how that money is spent. Would you support an audit of the City's animal-services budget—including all discretionary funds? If not, please explain why not.**

I would support this and this is another example of why I feel that every branch of local government should document every cent spent, where it was spent and what for and that documentation should be public record in order to hold our government accountable.

- 6. No city in America has achieved “no kill” success by implementing a mandatory spay/neuter ordinance. Some cities, like Los Angeles, have even**

seen an increase in shelter killing after introducing mandatory spay/neuter. In addition, such ordinances require increased enforcement costs, money that could be used for life-saving programs that are correlated with reduced shelter killing. As a council member, would you support mandatory spay/neuter, or would you support additional funding to increase access to low cost or free spay/neuter services?

I would support mandatory spay/neuter as long as it offers language within the law that is consistent with what is scientifically healthy for the animals as well as a way for people to be registered breeders.

7. What, if anything, do you envision as the role of the Austin Animal Advisory Commission? What kind of person will you appoint to the commission?

I would appoint someone who believes that we should never kill an animal that is not livestock unless it is diseased or too aggressive.

8. Have you ever rescued or adopted a pet? If you currently have pets, where did you get them?

My cat was a stray who kept getting hurt and after four vet visits I decided to have him neutered and he decided he was going to stay forever. I adopted my dog off of Craigslist in order to keep her from going to a shelter since she was eight years old and I knew she would be put down.

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