



# PET FRIENDLY TASK GROUP AGENDA

**July 27, 2022 at 12:30 PM**

**City Hall - Conference Room 106, 828 Center Avenue,  
Sheboygan, WI**

Persons with disabilities who need accommodations to attend this meeting should contact the Office of the Mayor, (920) 459-3317. Persons other than commission, committee, and board members who wish to participate remotely shall provide notice to the Office of the Mayor at 920-459-3317 at least 24 hours before the meeting so that the person may be provided a remote link for that purpose.

## OPENING OF MEETING

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call: Betty Ackley, Laura Berchem, Abby Block, Michelle Gentine, Pam Hertel, Andy Heyn, Scott Mills, Kristine Potter, Molly Talaska and Michelle Warner may attend remotely.

## MINUTES

- [4.](#) Approval of Minutes - June 29, 2022

## ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- [5.](#) **Grant Update**

Touch Base on progress on grant deliverables:

**Park recommendation**

- Status of Council resolution

**Signage**

- Design- Community engagement opportunity? (Perhaps soliciting attention-getting designs)

**Waste and water stations**

- current pricing
- order status

- [6.](#) **Better Cities for Pets certification**

Discuss certification, specifically:

- publicity
- public reaction to the announcement
- strategizing the roadmap to continue making meaningful changes

7. **Bone mystery**

Touch base on developments regarding bones being placed on common dog-walking routes

8. **Wilson Dog Run**

Check in on issues at the Willson Dog Run.

**NEXT MEETING**

9. Next meeting date: August 31, 2022

***In compliance with Wisconsin's Open Meetings Law, this agenda was posted in the following locations more than 24 hours prior to the time of the meeting:***

*City Hall • Mead Public Library  
Sheboygan County Administration Building • City's website*

**ADJOURN**

10. Motion to Adjourn

# CITY OF SHEBOYGAN

## PET FRIENDLY TASK GROUP MINUTES

Wednesday, June 29, 2022

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### OPENING OF MEETING

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 12:34pm by Chair Laura Berchem.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Roll Call: Betty Ackley, Laura Berchem, Abby Block, Michelle Warner,, Kristine Potter, Michelle Gentine, Pam Hertel, Andy Heyn, Scott Mills, and Molly Talaska may attend remotely.

**PRESENT:** Betty Ackley, Laura Berchem, Abby Block, Michelle Gentine, Pam Hertel, Andy Heyn, Scott Mills,

**ABSENT:** Kristine Potter, Michelle Warner, Molly Talaska

**STAFF/OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Officer Kevin Post, Mayor Ryan Sorenson, Mayoral Intern Alan Tibble

### MINUTES

4. Approval of Minutes – May 25, 2022

Motion by Michelle Gentine to approve the minutes of the May 25th, 2022 meeting. Second by Betty Ackley. Motion carried.

### ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

5. Touch Base on grant activities and progress with park recommendation process

The Mayor and City staff are working on the language of the Pet-Friendly Park recommendations for introduction to the City Council. The hope is to have the recommendation submitted in the next few weeks.

6. Discuss certification through the Better Cities for Pets Program

The Mayor submitted an updated assessment in the hopes of receiving the Pet Friendly City certification from the Mars Corporation.

7. Check in on issues at the Wilson Dog Run.

The grass was cut at the site on June 15th but the burdocks have already reasserted control of the park. The Town of Wilson's new DPW Director and the City of Sheboygan's new Superintendent of Parks and Forestry are working together in

the hopes of mitigating the issues. The City is considering bringing some of its no abundant supply of wood chips, the result of the recent storm, to the park with the goal of slowing the growth of weeds and burdocks.

Item 4.

8. Check in on any developments regarding bones being placed on common dog-walking routes

Nothing to report.

## **NEXT MEETING**

8. The next meeting is scheduled for July 27, 2022

## **ADJOURN**

9. Motion to adjourn by Abby Block. Second by Pam Hertel. Motion carried.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:16pm

# 2021 BETTER CITIES FOR PETS™ GRANT APPLICATION

## 2. SECTION I: CONTACT & DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

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### 1. MAYORAL CONTACT INFORMATION

**Mayor's Full Name**

Ryan Sorenson

**City**

Sheboygan

**State**

WI

**Email Address**

ryan.sorenson@sheboyganwi.gov

**City Website Address**

www.sheboyganwi.gov

### 2. PRIMARY CONTACT INFORMATION

(The person that will receive communication regarding the grant application):

**Full Name**

Abby Block

**Office, Department or Organization**

City Planning Department

**Title**

Grant Coordinator

**Email Address**

abby.block@sheboyganwi.gov

**Phone Number**

(920) 459-3378

**3. Affiliated Non-Profit Organization Contact Information (if applicable).** Please complete this section if you are a non-profit organization applying on behalf of a city - or a city working in partnership with a non-profit organization on the proposed project or program.

**Name of Organization**

Humane Society of Sheboygan County

**Primary Contact Name**

Laura Berchem

**Email Address**

laurab@scadopt.org

**Phone Number**

(920) 458-2012

**Website Address**

www.scadopt.org

**Address**

3107 N 20th St

**Suite/Office****City**

Sheboygan

**State**

WI

**Zip**

53083

**4. Please check your city's population size:**

Small City (population smaller than 75,000)

**3. SECTION II: DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED PROJECT OR PROGRAM**

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**5. Please specify in which Better Cities for Pets pillar category you're applying (Shelters, Homes, Parks or Businesses). You will select only one category.**

*Unsure? Examples may be found below.*

Parks

**6. Are you requesting funding for a new initiative or to enhance/expand an existing project or program in your community?**

New Initiative

**7. Please provide an executive summary of your project/program (1,000 words maximum), in which you should address:**

**The type of project/program for which you're seeking funding;**

**How this project/program ably addresses keeping people and pets together;**

**How this project/program is outstanding and/or innovative;**

**If the funding is for an existing project/program, how the grant will allow you to expand on current efforts in a meaningful way;**

**A general timeline for how the initiative would be executed within 24 months;**

**How this project/program might be replicated in other communities and/or cities.**

"Animals have come to mean so much in our lives. We live in a fragmented and disconnected culture. Politics are ugly, religion is struggling, technology is stressful, and the economy is unfortunate. What's one thing that we have in our lives that we can depend on? A pet loving us unconditionally, every day, very faithfully."

-Jon Katz, American journalist

Formed in August of 2020, the Mayor's Pet-Friendly Task Group is a collaborative effort that brings together the City of Sheboygan, the Humane Society of Sheboygan County (HSSC) and pet loving residents from around the City. Guided by the Mars BETTER CITIES FOR PETS initiative, the group has made significant progress in its mission to build a more pet-friendly Sheboygan. Seeking to build a safe and inclusive community for all people and pets who call the City home, the Task Group works to foster responsible ownership and increase acceptance of pets' important role in the fabric of the community. Using the program's assessment tool to evaluate the City's current strengths and opportunities for improvement, the Task Group identified the Public Parks, Trails and Green Spaces pillar as a priority area of focus.

Located on the beautiful shores of Lake Michigan, the City of Sheboygan is home to an abundance of outdoor spaces which offer diverse, year-round options for people of all ages. However, with just one dog park and a single walking path offering the chance to romp and run, and only a handful of City parks which allow pets on-leash, current recreational opportunities for pets and their owners are severely limited. In addition to insufficient access, significant confusion around where pets are and are not welcome is causing frustration among owners and friction with residents.

Recognizing this as a prime area for improvement, the Task Group set an ambitious course to enhance the availability of pet-friendly spaces. However, budget constraints have posed a significant challenge to accomplishing this goal. Funding through the BETTER CITIES FOR PETS grant program will allow the group to actively and aggressively work to achieve the following objectives:

Select target sites for pet-friendly recommendations:

- Promote and disseminate a community-wide survey to gather resident input
- Work with the Sheboygan Police Department to obtain and analyze data on pet-related incidences and identify relevant trends
- Conduct an audit of the City's outdoor spaces to evaluate size, amenities, challenges, and opportunities
- Rank and prioritize the Task Group's recommendations for at least seven new pet-friendly parks, trails and green spaces

Garner support:

- Work with Neighborhood Associations to enlist resident buy-in
- Promote the benefits of increased recreational options through digital channels, media outlets, and targeted advertising
- Collaborate with the City Attorney to ensure recommendations meet legal requirements
- Communicate with commission members and alderpersons to garner support
- Make recommendations to the Marina, Parks and Forestry Commission and the Common Council

Implement and Educate:

- Install signage at 36 parks to ensure residents can easily determine where pets are and are not allowed
- Install and maintain 15 pet waste stations to encourage responsible clean-up
- Install 2 pet-friendly water fountains
- Add a dedicated page to the City's website with information on parks as well as shelters, pet-friendly businesses and other resources
- Support the HSCC's 3.5-acre dog park, featuring a pond with diving dock, an agility course, and walking path, as well as amenities like dog wash stations and water fountains. This fully-fenced, lighted park is under construction and will be open to the public 24 hours per day/seven days per week, allowing off-leash pets the freedom to run, investigate, socialize and enjoy being a dog. Though a community park in the truest sense of the word, this \$300,000 project has received no municipal funding and is supported solely by private contributions and grants. After securing the items above, remaining funding will support this much-anticipated addition to the City of Sheboygan.

Pet-friendly parks, trails and other outdoor spaces are vital to keeping pets and their people together. And, access to these spaces offers powerful benefits for the entire community- both animals and humans, and pet-owners and the pet-less alike:

- Due to the prevalence of small lot sizes within the City and the increasing number of apartment dwellers, many Sheboygan residents rely on public areas to provide proper exercise, mental stimulation, and social interaction for their animals. Without access to these spaces, pets may never experience life beyond a fence or without a leash. Pets who have their physical, mental and social needs met are less likely to engage in troublesome behaviors, thereby reducing the likelihood of surrender.
- Pet-friendly spaces enhance the physical, mental and emotional health of pet parents as well. For some residents, visits to the dog park or walking trail provide the only physical exercise and fresh air they'll receive. For others, it may be their only opportunity for meaningful human interaction, providing a place to talk, exchange information, and share resources. Mitigating loneliness and isolation has been even more important in the midst of the pandemic, when socializing has been significantly restricted.
- These spaces improve neighborhoods and the City as a whole, lessening congestion on busy streets and sidewalks, and reducing instances of trespassing and other causes of friction between owners and other residents.

Currently home to nearly 23,000 pets, Sheboygan is seeing an influx of new residents who are attracted by our abundant jobs, high quality of life, and relative affordability. Ensuring access to recreational spaces for current and future citizens, both two- and four-legged, will significantly impact the health of the City and its residents. Serving as a scalable example for other communities, this initiative also has the potential to make our region, and the state of Wisconsin, more pet friendly. A BETTER CITIES FOR PETS grant will make this important work possible over the next 18-months, a timeline not otherwise possible, and will bring us closer to our Pet-Friendly City certification and our ultimate goal of building a safe and inclusive community for all.

**8. Please provide a top-line budget projection for how the funds would allocated (and supplemented if applicable) over the grant implementation period (maximum of twenty-four (24) months). Document must be uploaded as a PDF, with a maximum file size of 500 KB.**

[Pet\\_Friendly\\_Project\\_Budget.pdf](#)

**9. Please upload a letter of support from your Mayor's Office (required for submission; must be signed, on city letterhead, and uploaded in PDF format with a maximum file size of 500 KB).**

[Mayors Letter of Support.pdf](#)

**10. Please upload a high-quality png., jpeg., jpg. or pdf. file of your city logo and the logos of any major intended partners. Files may be up to 50 MB each. Additional formats may be requested at any time by Civic Design Center and/or Mars Petcare. By applying for the grant, you give permission for use of the logo(s) should a grant be awarded.**

[Humane Society logo.pdf](#)

[City-of-Sheboygan-logo.pdf](#)

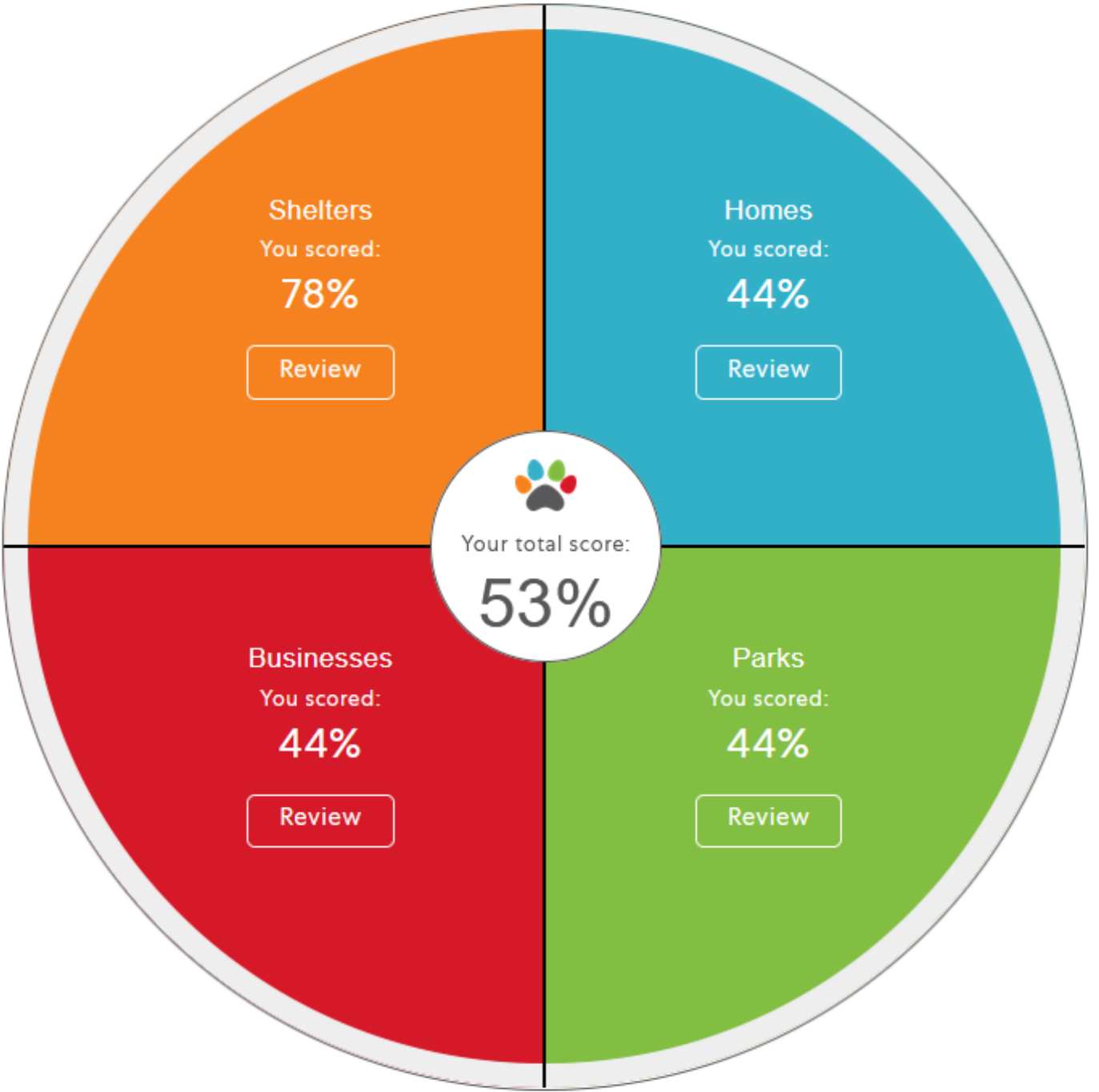
**11. (Optional) Please attach any relevant supplemental material(s) that will enhance your application. Please upload a high-quality png., jpeg., jpg. or pdf. file. You may upload up to three (3) files up to 50 MB each.**

[HSSC\\_Dog\\_Park\\_and\\_New\\_Building\\_Schematics.pdf](#)



**PROPOSED PROJECT BUDGET**  
**City of Sheboygan**  
**Pet-Friendly Parks initiative | BETTER CITIES FOR PETS Grant Program**

PROJECT CATEGORY	ACTIVITY	DELIVERABLE	UNIT COST	QTY	TOTAL	NOTES
Select target sites	Promote community-wide survey	Boosting of social media posts	\$20	4	\$80	
Select target sites	Promote community-wide survey	Gift card to encourage survey participation	\$100	1	\$100	
Garner support	Promote benefits of increased recreational options	Boosting of social media posts	\$20	4	\$80	
Garner support	Promote benefits of increased recreational options	Purchase paid media/advertising	\$100	3	\$300	
Implement and educate	Obtain signage	Purchase signs from City's in-house sign shop	\$9.40	300	\$2,820	8 signs per park for 36 City Parks with 12 replacement signs
Implement and educate	Obtain waste stations	Purchase stations	\$135	15	\$2,025	1 station for each of the 15 proposed pet-friendly spaces <a href="http://www.dogwastedepot.com">www.dogwastedepot.com</a>
Implement and educate	Install waste stations	Dept of Public Works staff time	\$25	8	\$200	avg of 30 minutes per station for 15 stations
Implement and educate	Maintain waste stations	Purchase waste bags	\$50	8	\$400	avg of 3,600 bags per station (8 units of 6,000 bags= 48,000 bags divided among 15 pet-friendly spaces) <a href="http://www.dogwastedepot.com">www.dogwastedepot.com</a>
Implement and educate	Obtain water fountains	Purchase fountains	\$2,535	2	\$5,070	<a href="https://www.katom.com/189-LK4400DBEVG.html">https://www.katom.com/189-LK4400DBEVG.html</a>
Implement and educate	Install fountains	Dept of Public Works staff time	\$25	4	\$100	2 hours per fountain
Implement and educate	Support the HSCC dog park	Provide capital and/or operational support	\$8,825	1	\$8,825	
				<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	



# About Your City

Question 1 out of 5

## Demographics

Use census data or information from local government agencies, chambers of commerce, resident or business associations.

[U.S. census data](#) [EU census data](#) [Australia census data](#)

Size of geographic area you're assessing

(e.g. "1.2 mile radius of downtown core" or "16-block area around Main Street")

Estimated population

Estimated % of owned housing

Estimated % of rental housing

Estimated number of households

We use the [AVMA Pet Ownership Calculator](#) to fill these in for you. You can click on the "Use manual calculation" box to calculate these yourself.

Estimated number of dog - owning households

(.384 x total number of households)

Estimated number of cat - owning households

(.254 x total number of households)

Estimated number of dogs

(1.6 x number of dog-owning households)

Estimated number of cats

(1.8 x number of cat-owning households)

☐ Use manual calculation

Ask your local animal care and control team if you need input on these questions

Does your city have a city-owned/run shelter?

Does your county have a county-owned/run shelter?

If no city- or county-owned shelter, where do local citizens go to adopt pets?

Estimated number of public and private shelters in your area (including city, county, nearby)

## Public Parks, Trails & Green Spaces

Ask your parks department if you need input on these questions

Estimated number of parks in your area

Estimated number of parks that allow on-leash pets

Estimated number of parks that allow off-leash pets

## Businesses

Ask your local chamber of commerce, business association or convention and visitors' bureau if you need input on these questions.

Estimated number of veterinary clinics and/or hospitals in your area

Estimated number of pet-focused businesses in your area (e.g. pet food store, pet day care, etc.)

Estimated percent of local restaurants that are pet-friendly

Estimated percent of local hotels that are pet-friendly

Estimated percent of local retailers that are pet-friendly

Estimated percent of local workplaces that allow pets at work

Estimated total percent of pet-friendly businesses

## Shelters are warm and welcoming to encourage adoption

Our shelters are happy places that people want to visit to adopt a pet.

Pets are comfortable at our city's shelters and have room to play.

Adoptable pets are readily available for viewing and interaction.

Shelter signage is welcoming and makes it easy to figure out where to go.

## Partners collaborate to end pet homelessness

Public, nonprofit and private shelters in our city/county share data and information to help homeless pets and get pets adopted.

Our city/county-owned shelter partners with other organizations to help homeless pets and get pets adopted.

Our city/county-owned shelter partners with for-profit businesses to help homeless pets and get pets adopted.

Our city has at least one policy or program that encourages animal adoption, e.g. an official Pet Adoption Awareness Day.

## Community cat programs humanely address overpopulation

Our city has a Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program through which cats are humanely trapped, spayed/neutered, vaccinated and returned to live out their lives in their home colony.

Yes

TNR is accepted by the community for the benefits it provides.

Sometimes

Community cats are well cared for in our city.

Sometimes

Our city has one or more Working Cats programs where businesses adopt cats to help control rodent populations

Yes

## Pet-friendly housing options exist for all families and pets

City laws allow pet ownership without restrictions on pet breed.

Yes

Pet-owners have plenty of options for where to live.

Sometimes

Pets are welcome in most rentals, condos and neighborhoods, regardless of breed or size.

Rarely/Never

Rental housing pet deposits or fees are reasonable.

Often/Always

## Support exists to help keep pets in homes through tough times

Our local food banks or animal welfare organizations distribute pet food for families in need.

Often/Always

Our city's disaster relief plans include pets (e.g. temporary shelters allow pets).

-select-

Our city has programs to help pet owners with responsible choices (e.g. low-cost spay/neuter and micro-chipping)

Yes

Our city has publicly or privately funded programs to help pet owners keep pets during tough times (e.g. support for homeless pet owners, micro-loans for pet emergencies, pet-friendly domestic violence shelter, etc.).

No

## Pet amenities are available in housing and neighborhoods

Housing developments and neighborhoods have pet relief areas with free waste bags.

Sometimes

Housing developments and neighborhoods provide drinking fountains or other hydration options for pets.

Rarely/Never

Housing developments and neighborhoods have pet-friendly green space within walking distance (1/4 mile).

Rarely/Never

Housing developments and neighborhoods offer pet amenities such as pet bathing or grooming areas, educational and training classes, veterinary services, etc.

Rarely/Never

## Pet needs are included in city, park and green space planning

Pet-friendly parks and public spaces are located throughout our city.

Sometimes

Pet needs are considered in public event and festival spaces.

Sometimes

More off-leash parks and pet-friendly spaces are planned in our city within the next five years.

Yes

Green space planning includes consideration for pets (e.g. on- or off-leash play areas and relief areas).

Sometimes

## Public pet amenities support good health for all

Our city's public spaces have easy-to-find pet relief areas with free waste bags and trash receptacles.

Sometimes

Our city has easy-to-find hydration options for pets, such as drinking fountains that are low to the ground and pet-friendly.

Rarely/Never

Our city has signage that clearly identifies pet amenities

Sometimes

Our city communicates about local pet amenities, programs and services (e.g. on city website, app, etc.).

Yes

## People know the expectations for pets in public places

Parks and public spaces in our city have signs about where pets are allowed or restricted.

Sometimes

Parks and public spaces post clear rules about pet owner responsibilities, where pets may be off-leash, etc.

Sometimes

Our city has a program to educate kids about dog behavior and/or avoiding dog bites.

No

Our city has a program to educate pet owners about responsible pet ownership.

No

## Businesses make it easy to be out with your pet

Our city has laws or regulations that allow businesses to welcome pets (e.g. "pets on patios" legislation).

Yes

Businesses post clear signage indicating if or where pets are welcome

Rarely/Never

Restaurants in our city welcome pets (inside or on patios).

Sometimes

Our city promotes itself as pet-friendly or has plans to do so in the near future.

Sometimes

## Traveling with pets is accessible, safe and affordable

The main streets in my city have wide, safe and accessible sidewalks to accommodate people with pets and service animals.

Often/Always

Our city's taxi and other fee-based car services allow pets.

Sometimes

Our public transportation allows pets regardless of size or breed.

Yes

Our airport has areas designated for pets and/or pet-friendly amenities.

-select-

## Workplaces know and support the benefits of pets at work

Our city has pet-friendly businesses that allow employees to bring their pets to work.

Yes

Businesses post clear signage indicating if they are a pet-friendly workplace.

Rarely/Never

Our city is supportive of pet-friendly workplaces and encourages them in some way.

No

One or more departments of our city government allow employees to bring pets to work.

No