



CITY OF
TOPEKA



Implementing the 21 day bond

The importance of placing a bond on animal
court holds

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Why is an amendment needed?

Prevents long term kennel stays

- 25% of Helping Hands kennels space is the housing of court hold dogs

Emotional toll on animals and staff

- Only 2 teams trained to work with court hold animals due to safety reasons and training requirements
- Longer stays result in stress and anxiety, which decreases the chance of getting adopted

Increased animal calls in the City of Topeka

- 2025, more than 3,000 animal related calls so far

Cost – reduces the amount of money the City of Topeka is spending

- Cost of care has gone up significantly to house animals and provide medical care

Ensures accountability to the owner

- Shifting the responsibility to the responsible owner

Longer Animal Control call response times

- Transport time for medical care



Effects of prolonged kennel confinement

- Long term isolation
- Increased anxiety
 - Self licking (excessive grooming in felines)
 - Pacing
 - Circling
 - Panting excessively
- Lowered immune system
 - Kennel cough
 - Upper respiratory infection in cats
- Signs of depression- failure to thrive
 - Changed food habits- anorexia (more popular in felines)
- C-PTSD – Canine Post traumatic stress disorder

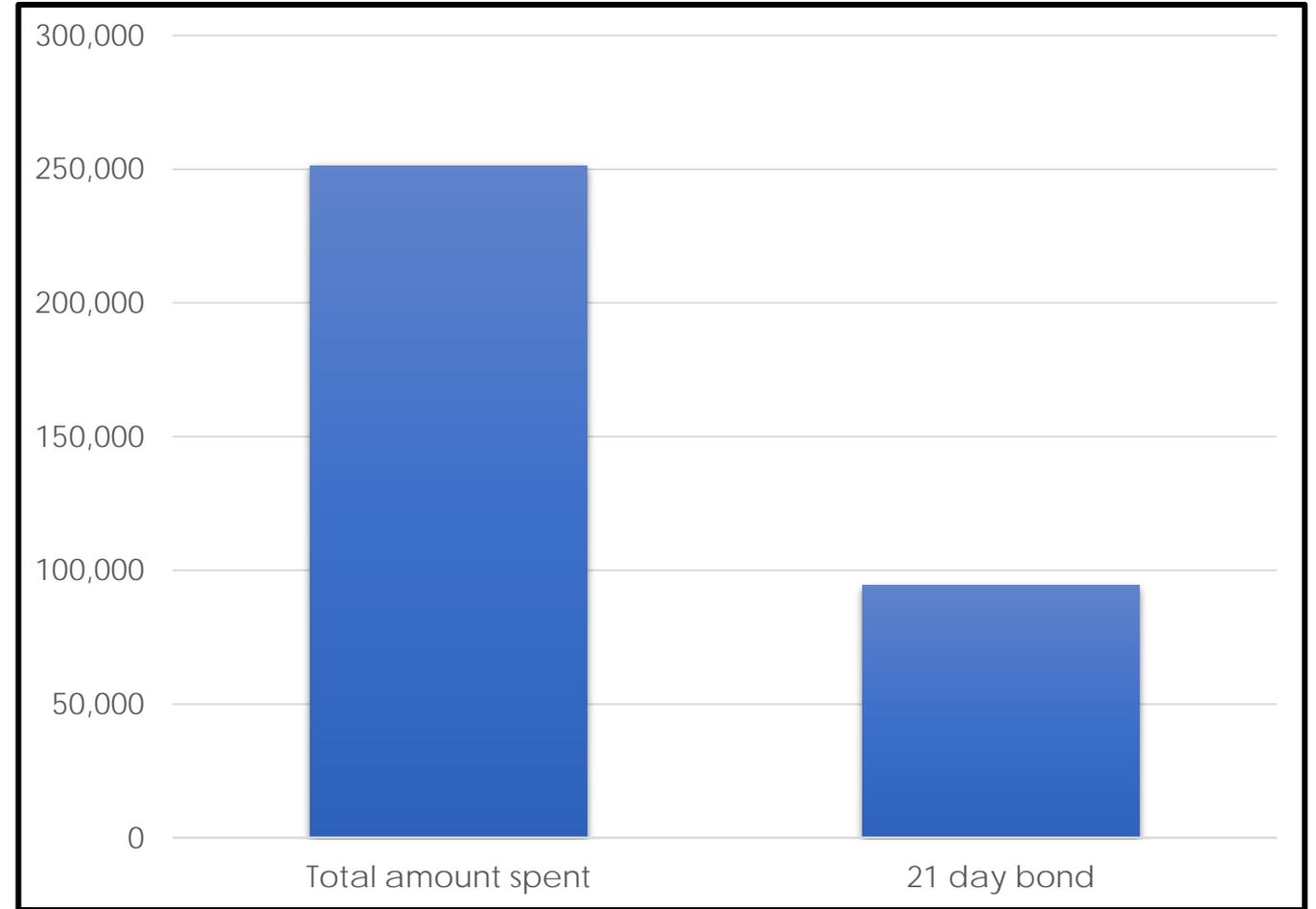
All the above factors hinder the chance of these animals being adopted



Financial impact- 5 year boarding cost

- Total amount spent in 5 years for boarding has been \$251,323
- If the 21 day bond was implemented, we would have spent \$94,251

Saving the City \$157,072.32



Financial impact- Medical expenses

- Every animal under court hold is the responsibility of the City of Topeka until released
- Last 2 years and partial 2025, around **\$25,070.70** has been spent on medical bills alone

Real life Example:

Court hold : 9/13/2024- 12/9/2024 (87 days)

Total boarding cost: \$815.67

Medical care and medication: \$966 dollars

Total= 1,781.67 **after 30 days subtracted from cost**



Increased animal calls

TPD Animal CFS	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	1.1-7.6.2025	Total
Animal Calls	4,579	5,411	6,275	6,549	6,647	3,167	32,628
Average calls per day	13	15	17	18	18	17	

- Rising Animal Control calls in the City ultimately results in more animals on court hold
- Increase in larger hoarding cases and failure to provide
 - Higher cost of living

