

February 26, 2015

ACTION ALERT to all Texas Pet/Animal Owners!

IMPORTANCE: HIGH! (Sorry, long) Forward widely!

Re: "Repeal & Replace HB 1451, HSUS/THLN misnamed "Puppy Mill Bill"

To "eliminate" - not regulate ALL Texas dog/cat breeders!

This is a pet issue, not a "breeder" issue. Pets don't grow on trees!

HSUS: Humane Society of the U.S.

THLN: Texas Humane Legislation Network, the HSUS affiliate in Texas (Some legislators aren't familiar with their acronyms, not aware that HSUS has no affiliation with local humane societies and is NOT a government agency! HSUS is being investigated in Oklahoma now, and Louisiana in the past, regarding "fundraising" for funds that didn't go to locals following OK's tornado and LA's Hurricane Katrina.)

TX HB 1451 doesn't even contain the "commercial" or "puppy mill" word and was passed in 2011 with unbelievable coercion -- lies, irregularities and threats -- from sponsor Rep. Senfronia Thompson (D-Houston). We defeated her 2009 bill. Senator John Whitmire (D-Houston) was the Senate sponsor and said: "you have to get the good breeders in order to get the bad breeders." HSUS chose the most powerful sponsors possible. I'll try to be brief as possible, but March 13th is the DEADLINE for filing bills this session and it'll be two years before we have another opportunity.

While I, our webmaster, and our lobbyist former Speaker Gib Lewis, shift our efforts to Plan "B," we need YOU to contact your legislator as we must have someone "carry" our bill, get it written up and filed before March 13th. Your legislator can be found www.capitol.state.tx.us . Phone, fax, mail and email .

Due to time constraints, we're only asking for two HB 1451 changes in our bill. These passed almost unanimously in Oklahoma regarding similar HSUS legislation there:

- 1) Transfer Administration of HB 1451 to Texas Department of Agriculture
- 2) Abolish the TDLR Breeder Advisory Committee

Our Plan "A" was progressing smoothly with interest from several legislators to file a bill for us with many other changes. Then our lobbyist received word that Rep. Thompson was up to her old tricks; notifying ALL state legislators that "as chairman of the powerful House Local & Consent Calendar, legislators would NEVER get a bill scheduled for a Floor Vote if they even let RPOA enter their office!" Our lobbyist then met with Thompson and was told she "did not like what she was hearing," but said to bring her information and she'd "meet with us to discuss it." We did that and simplified our efforts by only asking for these two changes. Not unexpectedly, yesterday Thompson authorized her staff (not even herself!) to

tell our lobbyist that "she is opposed to the items set forth in my letter and that the bill would stand as passed and NO changes would be accepted!" Some "discussion!" RPOA tried, but there is no negotiating with Thompson as we found in 2011! She has "HSUS blood" flowing thru her veins!

Rep. Thompson actually "works" the Senate Floor while in Session to get votes for her bills, as she did with HB 1451! She's got the power, but this is over the top! RPOA will be protesting to Governor Greg Abbott, Lt. Governor Dan Patrick, Speaker Joe Straus and Attorney General Ken Paxton asap. Recent elections were to be a New Day at our Legislature . NOT! We won't quietly fade away. Our animals are at stake in Texas, and we're as passionate about them as those who want to end all interaction with animals.

Texas Department of Licensing & Regulation (TDLR) is corrupted with "animal rights" staff; such as Asst. General Counsel Della Lindquist (an Austin "animal rights" extremist) and TDLR's Breeder Advisory Committee (BAC) members. THLN (Texas' HSUS voice) recently got an appointee to BAC representing "an animal welfare organization" when they do nothing but legislation. RPOA's application was rejected despite 24 years administering a statewide "Pet Education, Assistance & Rescue Program." TDLR is desperate because of only 170 Licensed Breeders (with 15 dual USDA licensed), not the 1,000 Licensed Breeders predicted. TDLR is intimidating all dog and cat breeders to believe they must be licensed. HSUS, THLN and ASPCA turned in (on their letterhead) over 400 breeder websites for "investigations" two months after the bill passed.

Time is critical; remember our bill must be FILED by March 13th, so the onus is on each of you to contact your legislators for help. Have them contact our lobbyist former Speaker Gib Lewis to help us, write the bill for us, and file by the deadline. We must have a primary legislator to "carry" the bill! Your legislators can be found from a link on the state's website: www.capitol.state.tx.us . Just fill in the box with address in lower right corner. In the meantime, we'll prepare info for our webmaster and media. More later. We also need more subscribers to our TX RPOA E-News. Just email a blank message to: TX_RPOA_E-News-subscribe@yahoo.com and you're subbed.

GAME ON! Be advised that HSUS/THLN/ASPCA lurkers are all receiving this RPOA Action Alert and will be spouting their usual lies about this new law!
Mary Beth Duerler, Executive Director