

August 2, 2010

Mayor John Cook
City of El Paso
2 Civic Center Plaza 10th Floor
El Paso, TX 79901

Re: Title 7 Animal Ordinance
Becoming No Kill doesn't mean No Pets!

Dear Mayor Cook:

Responsible Pet Owners Alliance has received a copy of the **Title 7 Animal Ordinance Proposal** you'll be voting on soon. This proposal will have unintended consequences and exacerbate your animal problems if passed. **We warned that the 2005 Ordinance Revision that passed for Litter Permits, Mandatory Microchips and Door-to-Door Enforcement would not work. The microchip database is a failure as are the Litter Permits with few sold.** Canvassing pet owners homes causes major resentment.

This new proposal is not written to solve your animal problems. It is a radical national "animal rights" legislative agenda to end all use, breeding and ownership of animals for any reason whether you eat them, wear them or pet them. The extremists will say and do anything to get this legislation passed to regulate pet ownership out of existence.

In Texas these efforts are being led by **Humane Society of the United States (HSUS)** and **Texas Humane Legislation Network (THLN)** who operate no animal shelters; have no community programs, and only exist to promote anti-pet legislation. Both organizations are coalitions of vegan "animal rights" extremists. **THLN has an El Paso Chapter** and **Steve Best**, philosophy professor at UT El Paso, is well known for his vocal support of **Animal Liberation Front (ALF)**, the "animal rights" terrorist arm.

Wayne Pacelle (Vegan President of HSUS) says: "We have no obligation to preserve the different breeds of livestock produced through selective breeding ... One generation and out. We have no problem with the extinction of domestic animals. They are creations of human selective breeding." One generation for working breeds of dogs is only 4-5 years. Dogs serve mankind in many ways besides pet ownership.

"The Politics of Animal Liberation," Animals' Agenda, November 1987: The Twelve Steps of the Animal Rights Agenda, Step 10: **"Stop any further breeding of companion animals, including purebred dogs and cats. Abolish commerce in animals for the pet trade."** PETA states **"no breeding can be considered responsible."**

This ordinance proposal will have no effect on animals killed at your local Facility! American Humane Association's Study on purebreds in shelters shows less than 7% dogs and 1% cats are purebreds, which has proven true in Texas. We can confirm this because we've administered a statewide All Species Rescue Program for 20 years.

We oppose the following sections of Title 7 Animals:

- Ban on all sales of dogs/puppies and cats/kittens by “backyard” breeders and pet stores.
- Only sales allowed are by breeders of “Competition Dogs and Cats.” Breeder is not defined, but subject to home inspections to ensure compliance. Director composes list of acceptable clubs or organization registries.
- A Breeder Permit and a Seller’s Permit are both required to be able to sell “Competition Dogs and Cats.” Must register each puppy/kitten of litter.
- All non-profit animal welfare organizations (including rescue groups) must obtain permits and be subject to home inspections. Granted at the director’s discretion.
- Canvassing is defined as: Periodic verification of compliance with this title by the department of health’s trained personnel to go door-to-door.
- Mandatory Spay/Neuter for all dogs and cats upon second impoundment at owner’s cost before being reclaimed. Animals are our personal property and this is unconstitutional.
- Requirement Litter Permit be in all advertisements. San Antonio’s Litter Permits for past two years are a failure with from two to six permits listed in 150 Ads.
- Veterinarians’ participation in enforcement (being written) will result in pet owners going outside city limits to avoid violations of doctor/client/patient relationship.
- Differential Pet Licenses (\$10 now) should remain as few pet owners buy the higher unaltered pet licenses; resulting in more unvaccinated/unlicensed pets.

Your demographics are similar to San Antonio (our home base) so we know your animal problems well. Your ordinance is discriminatory to low income pet owners who need programs and services, not legislation which will be ignored. They’ll just give up their pets which means you’ll never become No Kill.

Our animal expertise is offered as a public service, no fees charged. Our statewide membership is composed of many concerned “John Q” pet owners with all species of pets, rescuers, veterinarians, veterinary technicians, sportsmen, hunting dog and other working dog breed clubs and individual owners, pet clubs and individuals from all national registries, cat and dog fanciers/exhibitors, search & rescue dog owners, therapy dog owners, guide dog owners, show dog handlers, pet sitters, dog trainers, pet groomers, boarding kennels, show/hobby breeders and pet lovers in general.

We’d be glad to work with you on a myriad of proactive approaches to solving your animal problems. Feel free to contact us anytime. However: “Don’t Mess With Texas Pets!” We have drawn a line in the sand. Which side will El Paso be on?

Sincerely,

Mary Beth Duerler
(Volunteer) Executive Director
Cell: (210) 213-2809