

TX-RPOA E-News

> From RPOA Texas Outreach and
Responsible Pet Owners Alliance

"Animal welfare, not animal 'rights'
and, yes, there is a difference."

Permission granted to crosspost.

August 19, 2010

Email Action Alert!

Lubbock pet owners need help. Please email the city officials listed below and OPPOSE this national "animal rights" agenda to legislate pet ownership out of existence in Lubbock. The entire "Animal Rights" Agenda! Where will future pets come from?

Lubbock City Council will hold a "Work Session" Thursday, August 26, in City Council Chambers at 1625 13th Street. Staff will make a presentation which is posted on our website: www.rpoatexasoutreach.org under the Lubbock Tab. The presentation includes recommendations that include: Ban on Animal Sales, Mandatory Spay/Neuter, Intact Pet Permits, Breeder Permits, Litter Permits, Sellers Permits, Puppy/Kitten Lemon Law, and Mandatory Microchips.

The "Work Session" item is on the agenda for 1:00 PM but citizens can NOT speak to council at this time. (They can be present and listen.) However citizens can speak to council at 7:30 AM before the meeting begins. They must sign up 72 hours before meeting time and date. Contact to sign up: CEspinoza@mail.ci.lubbock.tx.us -- 3 minutes allowed per person. Sometimes citizens are allowed to sign up when they arrive.

Council will not vote at this time. A "Work Session" only but the extremists will be out in full force.

Talking Points:

- * This proposal should be scrapped and the focus should be on pet retention, not pet elimination!
- * Staff's presentation repeatedly states it regulates "responsible pet owners." These pet owners are not the problem and don't need more regulation.
- * Responsible pet owners already have their pets sterilized and confined. Animal problems always lie in low income areas of cities and will only be solved with programs and services - not legislation.

* All of these suggestions are a national "animal rights" legislative agenda and are not written to solve Lubbock's local animal problems. Due to the economy and low income pet owners, more fees, fines and permit requirements will result in more pets being dumped at local shelters or on the streets. San Antonio now has a much worse stray animal problem than before the 2007 ordinance revision passed, a major public health and safety issue. Packs of dogs roam the streets in spite of a \$7.5 million annual budget at Animal Care Services.

* San Antonio recently rescinded their Intact Dog Permit and Mandatory Spay/Neuter for dogs over 6 months of age (passed in 2007) because it was unenforceable. The only permits sold were for very few impounded dogs reclaimed by their owners.

* Houston passed a Breeder Permit in 2007 and have sold three (3) permits in the past three years.

* El Paso passed Litter Permits, Mandatory Microchips and Canvassing (going door-to-door for enforcement) in 2006. NO Litter Permits have been sold in four years. The microchip database proved to be impossible to maintain and there are no records available, only an "estimate." Many times pet owners don't pay the fee and register with the national microchip registries. Canvassing homes wasn't done due to backlog of service requests.

* All of these suggestions are documented failures and always mean fewer pet licenses sold. Differential licensing has been a failure for 30 years. Few pet owners buy any licenses, much less the higher priced license.

Responsible Pet Owners Alliance stands ready to help Lubbock develop proactive positive programs to address their animal problems. We've administered a statewide Pet Education, Assistance & Rescue Program for 20 years.

E-Mail all below and make it personal:

City Manager and Mayor:

LDumbauld@mail.ci.lubbock.tx.us

TMartin@mail.ci.lubbock.tx.us

Council Members:

VHernandez@mail.ci.lubbock.tx.us

FPrice@mail.ci.lubbock.tx.us

TKlein@mail.ci.lubbock.tx.us

PBeane@mail.ci.lubbock.tx.us

KGibson@mail.ci.lubbock.tx.us

JGilbreath@mail.ci.lubbock.tx.us

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RPOA Texas Outreach (501C4 Nonprofit)

www.rpoatexasoutreach.org

Responsible Pet Owners Alliance (501C3 Nonprofit)

www.responsiblepetowners.org

900 NE Loop 410 #311-D

San Antonio, TX 78209

\$15 Annual dues (January - December)

To subscribe, contact rpoa@texas.net