

Texas Action Alert!
March 24, 2010

Proposed changes to San Antonio Chapter 5 Animal Ordinance

Gary Hendel, Animal Care Services Director, says: "Mandatory Spay/Neuter is the only way to become No Kill -- not have animals out there!" Apparently No Kill in San Antonio is in direct conflict with Nathan Winograd's No Kill Philosophy which is programs and services, not legislation. Hendel wants Bexar County to adopt the same excessive regulations as San Antonio.

In "Can we Legislate No Kill?" Nathan Winograd (founder of the No Kill Movement) writes: "All the legislation in the world isn't going to make a community No Kill. Even if a law is passed, enforcement will be elusive, complaint driven, ... and will provide nothing more than a drain on scarce animal shelter dollars and a diversion from the business of saving lives."

Texas Humane Legislation Network's local chapter, and Voice for Animals and other "animal rights" groups have joined hands with Gary Hendel, Animal Care Services (ACS) director, in an attempt to end all use, breeding and ownership of animals in San Antonio. There will be no pets in 10 years if this radical ordinance revision is passed. Dogs especially have a very short life span and must be replaced. San Antonio already has the most anti-pet ordinance in the state which will eventually have a negative effect on tourism.

ACS is hosting public meetings regarding the proposed revisions which are a total waste of time as the mayor and city council are the ones we must contact. A final draft of this proposal will be prepared April 19, go to ACS Advisory Board April 21; Quality of Life Committee Meeting May 11 and City Council vote on May 13. ACS hopes to get this passed before the general public learns what's in it. This is SOP with this type legislation.

As if the existing ordinance passed two years ago isn't bad enough, these onerous proposals are now on the table which RPOA vehemently OPPOSES:

- ALL animals must be spayed/neutered in San Antonio city limits except "police dogs, military dogs and competition dogs (Show Dogs)."
- All tethered dogs must be sterilized. No tethering above 95 F and below 35 F.
- All puppies and kittens must be sterilized including pet shops. Puppies in violation of mandatory spay/neuter will be confiscated. Illegal to sell/give away intact cats and dogs.
- Competition Dog Permit replaces existing "Intact Dog Permit" which is a failure.
- Competition Dogs must have Breeder's Permit to be bred, must show proof of a litter and be charged for each puppy. If not shown and bred, must be sterilized.
- Breeder Permit replaces existing Litter Permit which is a failure. Number of litters allowed to be determined. Litter Information not provided means automatic sterilization.
- Rescue Groups Permit: Hendel stated that the city must ensure that rescuers don't become "hoarders." Yearly inspections of permit holders. Standards to be determined.
- Dangerous Dog Control: Hearing Process (change is needed here!) and establishment of Potential Dog Protocol.
- Fowl/Livestock: No roosters, only non-fertile eggs allowed. Minimum standards TBD.

TALKING POINTS TO MAYOR, CITY COUNCIL:

1. **Don't listen to the "animal rights" extremists** who want to eliminate all use, breeding and ownership of animals. They also want to close down the Zoo, Rodeo, Sea World, Circus, Dog and Cat Shows, and eliminate all animal agriculture and use of animal products. They seek legal rights for animals in the courts equal to humans to achieve their agenda.
2. **San Antonio has become known as the most anti-pet city in Texas since passage of the Animal Ordinance Revision in December 2007. I will no longer visit your city.**
3. **Vote NO to all these "animal rights" proposals that have failed everywhere they passed and are not written to solve local animal problems. It is an agenda.**

4. **Rescind existing Litter Permits, Annual Intact Dog Permits and annual permits for owning every animal in the city limits as pets are being dumped in droves due to existing ordinance and the economy. ACS seldom picks up or accepts unwanted pets anymore at the Facility creating a major public health and safety issue.**
5. **Enforce the Leash Law which would solve 85% of the animal problems.**
6. **Pet owners already pay taxes for animal control, fire and police protection. The \$5 Pet License is adequate regardless of intact or not! All intact dogs are not bred.**
7. **Stop punishing responsible pet owners with permit fees, citations and fines who keep their animals confined and aren't the problem. Punish those who let their animals run loose.**
8. **There are no "puppymills" in city limits due to pet limits in spite of what you'll be told. This is a manufactured term coined by the extremists. Anyone who breeds one litter is a puppymill or kittenmill to them and they want all pet breeding stopped.**

Nathan Winograd, founder of the No Kill Philosophy, wrote: "While some activists simply do not know better and mean well, others obstinately ignore facts, experience, and history and continue to push these types of laws. They will do what they have always done—facts, logic, and history be damned. They will continue to blame the public and they will continue to fight for more and tougher laws. They will argue that their community is different, that their situation is unique, that citizens in their community are particularly—or peculiarly—irresponsible. None of this is true, but they do not care."

ACS PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE (if you want to waste your time)

Thursday, April 1, 2010; Northeast Service Center; 10303 Toolyard, Time: 6-8 pm
 Tuesday, April 6, 2010; Sam Houston High School Auditorium; 4635 East Houston, Time: 6-8 pm
 Monday, April 12, 2010; Igo Branch Library; 13330 Kyle Seale Parkway, Time: 6-7:30 pm
 Tuesday, April 13, 2010; Our Lady of the Lake University, Library Communications Room; 411 SW 24th Street, Time: 6-8 pm

Please help San Antonio pet owners kill this proposal and get onerous 2007 ordinance provisions rescinded, contact the newspaper, city and county officials below:

San Antonio Express-News
letters@express-news.net
 (Must give name, address, and phone number)

San Antonio officials:

Address for all: City of San Antonio, PO Box 839966, San Antonio, TX 78283

E-Mail addresses for all:

mayorjuliancastro@sanantonio.gov; citymanager@sanantonio.gov; PDiGiovanni@sanantonio.gov;
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district6@sanantonio.gov; district7@sanantonio.gov; district8@sanantonio.gov; district9@sanantonio.gov;
district10@sanantonio.gov

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 E-mail: citymanager@sanantonio.gov

Deputy City Manager Pat DiGiovanni; Phone: (210) 207-6912; Fax: (210) 207-4122;
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Councilwoman Mary Alice Cisneros; Phone: (210) 207-7279; Fax: (210) 207-6931; E-mail: district1@sanantonio.gov

Councilwoman Ivy R. Taylor; Phone: (210) 207-7278; Fax: (210) 207-4496; E-mail: district2@sanantonio.gov

Councilwoman Jennifer Ramos; Phone: (210) 207-7064; Fax: (210) 534-1931; E-mail: district3@sanantonio.gov

Councilman Philip Cortez; Phone: (210) 207-7281; Fax: (210) 678-0099; E-mail: district4@sanantonio.gov

Councilman David Medina, Jr.; Phone: (210) 207-7043; Fax: (210) 212-4860; E-mail: district5@sanantonio.gov

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Councilman Justin Rodriguez; Phone: (210) 207-7044; Fax: (210) 207-7027; E-mail: district7@sanantonio.gov

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Councilwoman Elisa Chan; Phone: (210) 207-7325; Fax: (210) 341-2092; E-mail: district9@sanantonio.gov

Councilman John Clamp; Phone: (210) 207-7276; Fax: (210) 207-7027; E-mail: district10@sanantonio.gov

BEXAR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS CONTACT INFORMATION

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