April 13, 2010

Mayor Julian Castro
And City Council Members
City of San Antonio
PO Box 839966
San Antonio, TX 78283

Dear Mayor Castro and Council,

San Antonio has become known nationwide as the most Anti-Pet City in Texas and ties with Denver, CO, nationally.

A little bit of history. We had a year long battle over the very controversial Chapter 5 Animal Ordinance Revision which finally passed in December 2007. Two Texas Humane Legislation Network (THLN) board of director members: Jef Hale (then Animal Care Services Director) and Joel Hailey (local attorney) pushed this legislation. Hailey and John Bachman (Voice for Animals) have lobbied city hall since 1991 to get this legislation passed and finally succeeded. THLN is a coalition of all Texas animal "rights" extremists. The ordinance has been a dismal failure in San Antonio and has had unintended consequences as we warned it would at the time.

A similar proposal was presented to Dallas City Council by Robert (Skip) Trimble, THLN board member and chairman of the Dallas Animal Advisory Commission. All Texas animal advisory boards have been hijacked by these extremists. Fort Worth was next … pushed by a former THLN president. I hope you connect the dots. This is a national legislative agenda and wasn't written to solve San Antonio's or any other city's animal problems. It originated in California in 1991 and has failed everywhere it passed.

Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF) is a national group of attorneys attempting to get animals legal rights equal to humans which would effectively end all use, breeding and ownership of animals. Cass Sunstein, our president's regulatory czar, subscribes to this philosophy. Many THLN members are members of ALDF according to websites.

To exacerbate our problems, Animal Care Services no longer picks up dogs and cats; charges $40 and accepts very few at the Facility; refuses to loan out traps anymore; and plays a shell game to make statistics look good regarding the No Kill goal. Instead of buying Intact Dog Permits and Litter Permits, animals are now being dumped in droves. ACS reports only 358 Litter Permits and 778 Intact Dog Permits sold last year. A permit gives ACS permission to enter our homes and yards without a search warrant. Pet owners will *not* buy them. So now Gary Hendel plans to add a "Sellers Permit" for residents and non-residents; set up mini-stings and go door-to-door to "make" everyone comply with these over the top regulations.

San Antonio has had yet another Rabid dog reported this week and is ripe for a major Rabies outbreak or a fatality from the loose dogs on our streets. Rabies is fatal to humans. Callers to our office complain about loose dogs that won't let them get to their cars or front doors and run in packs terrorizing neighborhoods. Loose cats are driving

them crazy! Animal Care Services makes no effort to get stray animals off our streets and prefers instead to invade our homes and premises to ensure there are no animals there with "balls" or a litter, heaven forbid. ACS has animal control officers and volunteers block walking neighborhoods -- most volunteers being the same radicals that wanted the legislation passed in the first place. These extremists only constitute less than 1% of the total population. More information is in the FBI Report enclosed.

We've had five ACS directors in the past six years. We have an ACS budget of $7.5 million, six free or low cost Spay/Neuter Programs, more city council and community support than ever and ACS still can't get it right. ACS wants Bexar County to adopt the same excessive anti-pet regulations as San Antonio.

We need to either follow the advice of Nathan Winograd, founder of the No Kill Movement, or stop hijacking his "No Kill" title. Winograd says: "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." Winograd recommends programs and services and says legislation means more animals will be relinquished and killed at animal control. If they aren't dumped on the streets.

Digging the hole deeper, new ACS proposals are:

- ALL animals must be spayed/neutered except "police dogs, military dogs and competition show dogs."
- Illegal to sell or give away intact cats and dogs including pet shops. Puppies in violation will be confiscated.
- All tethered dogs must be sterilized. No tethering above 95 F and below 35 F.
- Competition Dog Permit replaces existing "Intact Dog Permit" (a failure).
- Competition Dogs must have Breeder's Permit. Be charged for each puppy.
- Breeder Permit replaces existing Litter Permit (a failure).
- Rescuer Permit so city can ensure that rescuers don't become "hoarders."
- Dangerous Dog Ordinance Changes. (Changes are needed here!)
- No roosters, only non-fertile eggs allowed.

We will send you a letter soon with our suggested solutions to San Antonio's animal problems and request that changes be made to the existing ordinance. Our membership has incredible animal expertise. We administer a statewide Pet Education, Assistance & Rescue Program -- office based in San Antonio. Our membership includes many concerned John Q. Pet Owners with all species of pets, rescuers, veterinarians, veterinary technicians, sportsmen, working and hunting 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 are the true animal lovers, not these extremists!

Mary Beth Duerler
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