

June 29, 2010

Mayor Jim Bush
PO Box 2570
Waco, Texas 76702

Re: Opposition to Intact Animal Permit

Dear Mayor Bush,

Our members in Waco have contacted us about the Intact Animal Permit that was recently approved on the first reading. We understand the final vote will be July 6th. It would be a mistake to pass this proposal. The focus should be on proactive voluntary pet spay/neuter programs, education, TNR feral cat programs, and picking up stray animals instead of targeting pet owners whose animals are confined to their premises. Piling more fees on pet owners in these tough economic times will mean more animals surrendered to shelters - not less! There cannot legally be "selective" enforcement. All pet owners must comply!

San Antonio City Council just rescinded their Intact Dog Permit as being unenforceable and ineffective after almost two years. The only Intact Dog Permits sold were for dogs that were reclaimed by their owners after being impounded. The Animal Care Services director said few even knew what "intact" meant! This legislation is not new and is not written to address your animal problems. It is a radical national "animal rights" agenda to end all use, breeding and ownership of animals. Will you support this?

The city of Fort Worth rescinded their higher license fee for intact pets because Rabies Cases had doubled from 45 to 90 cases and few bought pet licenses. Fort Worth set a universal \$7 Pet License Fee for *all* dogs and cats. The Pet License is to ensure that the pet has its Rabies vaccination per state law, not that every dog and cat is sterilized. It is a public health and safety issue.

This proposal has failed to lower the number of animals euthanized at city animal control facilities anywhere it has passed. Your city is being given misinformation. Less than 7% of impounded dogs and 1% of impounded cats are purebred according to an American Humane Association Study.

Better solutions are: Enforce the Leash Law; Hold Off-Site Pet Adoption Clinics; Trap, Neuter & Return (TNR) Program for outside cats; Low Cost Pet Spay/Neuter Programs; Children's Education; and Working Closely with Rescue Groups.

We've researched successful and failed programs in all parts of the country and have administered a Pet Education, Assistance & Rescue Program in Texas for almost 20 years. Our statewide membership is diverse with incredible animal expertise. If we can be of further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Mary Beth Duerler
Executive Director
CC: Council Members