

Dallas, Texas, Action Alert!

The Dallas Animal Shelter Commission voted unanimously on January 17th to approve Chapter 7 Animal Ordinance Revisions, which are an “animal rights” national legislative agenda to end all use, breeding and ownership of pets and are not a solution to any local animal problems.

The solution to animal problems is strict enforcement of existing leash laws, animal cruelty and animal nuisance laws; education in proper pet care and bite prevention; voluntary free and low cost pet spay/neuter programs; and aggressive off-site pet adoptions for impounded animals at Animal Services.

The proposed revisions include:

The Dangerous Dog Section is acceptable and not opposed. The sections below are to be opposed with no compromises because they are not in the best interest of the animals. (The “director” below refers to the director of Dallas Animal Services.)

- Pet Limits of 6 dogs, cats or combination in a single family home; providing a grandfather provision for dogs or cats registered within 90 days with the director; allows no additional animals to be covered.
- Mandatory Spay/Neuter: Owner of unspayed or unneutered dogs and cats over 4 months of age commits an offense if the owner does not have a Breeder Permit issued annually for each individual animal. (Only dog and cat show breeders qualify for this permit).
- \$500 Annual Breeder Permit (usually unobtainable for residentially zoned property) for each dog or cat which must be registered with a national registry (approved by the director) AND whose owner is a member of a purebred dog or cat club (also approved by the director). The club must have a code of ethics restricting breeding dogs and cats with genetic defects and life threatening health problems for approval.
- Foster Care Providers must obtain a form from the director to apply for a permit (notarized by the legal owner and one occupant of the dwelling unit) to keep up to 10 dogs, cats or any combination which authorizes unannounced inspections of premises and must be approved by the director.
- Ban on tethering dogs unless owner is present and includes new confinement requirements of 150 feet pen size per dog.

Talking Points (Choose from below; copy and paste into a letter.):

- This ordinance clearly demonstrates the national “animal rights” legislative agenda to end all use, breeding and ownership of animals, and was not written to

address Dallas animal problems. Their extreme agenda is an assault on the human/animal bond.

- The proposal is bad law and must be defeated in its entirety -- not amended -- because compromise is a favorite strategy of the “animal rights” extremists to achieve their goal to stop all breeding of animals.
- Followed to the ultimate conclusion, this ordinance means mixed breeds will become extinct. People will be forced to buy only registered dogs and cats that the Animal Services director decides can exist in Dallas. This ordinance does not address animals imported from out of state for resale nor the auction of animals.
- Animals are legally personal property although there are those who are trying to change this law in our court system. The spay/neuter provision in this ordinance for 4 month old dogs and cats is comparable to hysterectomies for 3 year old girls and vasectomies for 3 year old boys. There will be a lack of hormones for mental and physical development.
- The ordinance places the brunt of enforcement for Breeder Permits on Dallas dog and cat fancy clubs who will have to furnish their club membership lists to Animal Services. “Mandatory Spay/Neuter of all dogs and cats over 4 months of age unless each animal has a \$500 annual Breeder Permit has qualifications that the dog must be registered with a national registry (approved by the director) and whose owner must be a member of a purebred dog or cat club (also approved by the director). The club must have a code of ethics which restricts breeding dogs and cats with genetic defects and life threatening health problems for approval by the director.” The clubs will not do this.
- Since the director must approve of any national registry and club when applying for a Breeder Permit, this opens the door for breed specific decisions which would be in violation of state law prohibiting same.
- There are many assistance, hunting and other working dog breeds that can’t be spayed or neutered because it ruins their basic working capabilities. This is supported in a study by Canine Companions for Independence. Most working breeds can’t be evaluated for capabilities until they are close to 2 years old.
- This type legislation has failed where passed 15 years ago: San Mateo County, CA; King County, WA; Montgomery County, MD. It hasn’t been successful anywhere in spite of what you’ll be told.
- Pet limits mean fewer homes for dogs and cats. The existing Dallas ordinance with no pet limits should be preserved as a reasonable approach which allows any number of animals to be kept unless they are abused, neglected or become a nuisance.

- Robert (Skip) Trimble, chairman of the Dallas Animal Shelter Commission, received the “2001 Activist Award” from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) September 8, 2001. PETA has a “No Birth Campaign” to end all breeding of pets and considers pet ownership to be slavery.
- “Animal Rights” activists say they have pets and are their “guardians” (not owners) but where will future pets come from if there is no breeding allowed?
- This legislation will not reduce strays and will double or triple the annual budget for Dallas Animal Services.
- It’s unenforceable without controversial and costly door-to-door enforcement to check for sex organs on dogs and cats and will ultimately mean more animals will be relinquished to local shelters and Animal Services.
- This type legislation is discriminatory to low income pet owners and will result in these pet owners giving up their pets to be killed at Animal Services.
- This anti-pet legislation is vehemently opposed by dog and cat fanciers who would feel their annual shows are not welcome in your city and would have a major economic impact should they leave. National and international exhibitors spend millions of dollars at area businesses each year.
- Pet owners will go underground and won’t purchase pet licenses, breeder permits, nor get Rabies Vaccinations and eventually this will create a public health threat.
- “Permits” make animal owners a target and mean permission is granted to enter premises at any time without a search warrant. Breeders, rescuers and those who foster animals in their homes are already regulated by animal nuisance, animal cruelty and leash laws and resent this unwarranted intrusion by city employees.
- Is the city of Dallas ready to face the liability of ill effects from spay/neuter, such as death of a beloved pet from anesthesia and significant behavioral and health risks, such as osteosarcoma (bone cancer), cardiac hemangiosarcoma, obesity, hypothyroidism, progressive geriatric cognitive impairment, prostate cancer, urinary tract cancers, orthopedic disorders, urinary incontinence in female dogs, and other issues? This should be a decision made by the pet owner with their veterinarian – not city government.
- Tethering & Pen Confinement: A Cornell University study entitled “A Comparison of Tethering and Pen Confinement of Dogs” to determine whether tethering was detrimental to the dog’s welfare compared general activity and specific behaviors and concluded there was no improvement in welfare in pens. There was no difference in aggression or play. Requiring a 150’ pen for a Chihuahua or other small dogs is ridiculous.

Please contact ALL Dallas city officials below. Faxes are best but anything will do!
Always place "Opposition to proposed Chapter 7 revisions" in the subject line.

Dallas Morning News
Letters to the Editor bmong@dallasnews.com

City of Dallas
1500 Marilla Street
Dallas, Texas 75201

Mayor Tom Leppert
Phone: (214) 670-4054
Fax: (214) 670-0646
Tom.leppert@dallascityhall.com

City Manager Mary Suhm
Phone: (214) 670-3296
Fax: (214) 670-3946
Mary.Suhm@dallascityhall.com

Asst. City Manager David Brown
(supervises Animal Services)
Phone: (214) 670-3390
Fax: (214) 670-4965
David.brown@dallascityhall.com

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Elba Garcia
Phone: (214) 670-4052
Fax: (214) 670-3409
Elba.garcia@dallascityhall.com

Councilmember Pauline Medrano
Chairman: Quality of Life Committee
Phone: (214) 670-4048
Fax: (214) 670-5117
Pauline.medrano@dallascityhall.com

Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Dwaine Caraway
Phone: (214) 670-0781
Fax: (214) 670-3409
Dwaine.caraway@dallascityhall.com

Councilmember David Neumann
Member: Quality of Life Committee
Phone: (214) 670-0776
Fax: (214) 670-1833

David.neumann@dallascityhall.com

Councilmember Vonciel Jones Hill
Vice-Chair: Quality of Life Committee
Phone: (214) 670-0777
Fax: (214) 670-5117
Vonciel.hill@dallascityhall.com

Councilmember Steve Salazar
Member: Quality of Life Committee
Phone: (214) 670-4199
Fax: (214) 670-5115
Steven.salazar@dallascityhall.com

Councilmember Carolyn Davis
Quality of Life Committee
Phone: (214) 670-4689
Fax: (214) 670-5115
Carolyn.davis@dallascityhall.com

Councilmember Tennell Atkins
Phone: (214) 670-4066
Fax: (214) 670-5115
Tennell.atkins@dallascityhall.com

Councilmember Sheffield Kadane
Quality of Life Committee
Phone: (214) 670-4069
Fax: (214) 670-5115
sheffield.kadane@dallascityhall.com

Councilmember Jerry Allen
Phone: (214) 670-4068
Fax: (214) 670-5115
Jerry.allen@dallascityhall.com

Councilmember Linda Koop
Phone: (214) 670-7817
Fax: (214) 670-5117
Debra.brown@dallascityhall.com

Councilmember Ron Natinsky
Phone: (214) 670-4067
Fax: (214) 670-5117
District12@dallascityhall.com

Councilmember Mitchell Rasansky

Phone: (214) 670-3816

Fax: (214) 670-5117

Mitchell.rasansky@dallascityhall.com

Councilmember Angela Hunt

Phone: (214) 670-5415

Fax: (214) 670-5117

Angela.hunt@dallascityhall.com