

Proposed Changes to San Antonio's Animal Ordinance Will Do Nothing to Save the Thousands of Animals Killed in San Antonio Every Year!



Proposed changes to the existing ordinance will result in major public health and safety threats – more dog bites and attacks, more stray dog packs of dumped dogs, and unvaccinated cats spreading Rabies and other diseases to San Antonio's human population.

The number of animals killed annually at San Antonio's Animal Care Services has steadily declined, while the increase in San Antonio's human population is exploding. This ordinance will reverse that downward trend.

The ordinance's so-called solution to the animal crisis is to levy exorbitant taxes on all animal owners – adding animals that have never before been licensed, such as horses, cattle, and birds.

High fees and fines don't work where animals are concerned, and will only result in more killings.

Making animal ownership cost prohibitive and compliance impossible creates outlaws out of animal owners – animals will be dumped or hidden. Only the wealthy will be able to afford to keep their animals.

The City has added or increased annual fees and permits for all aspects of animal ownership – rates which are not carved in stone, and will only increase at the City's whim.

"Due Process" and personal property rights are violated throughout the ordinance – yet another example of the continued erosion of our constitutional rights.

The City says San Antonio has too many un-owned or unwanted animals – so the ordinance reduces the number of available homes by lowering the animal limit and raising the cost of animal ownership. Where's the logic in that?

Mandatory spay/neuter of all dogs is also proposed: "Any person who keeps a dog over the age of six months that is not spayed or neutered must obtain an annual \$50 Intact Dog Permit in addition to the \$75 license fee; subject to seizure and impoundment for noncompliance." You'll be told that this part of the ordinance is not "mandatory," but if you "must" obtain it, it is mandatory. If you must obtain a drivers license in order to operate a motor vehicle, it is mandatory. If you must buy liability insurance on your vehicle, it is mandatory.

Changes to the leash law state that dogs can no longer be under the voice control of the owner, but must be on a leash. How will this affect search and rescue dogs, and those assistance dogs who work off-lead?

The animals killed at San Antonio's Animal Care Services come from only 9 of the city's zip codes. Changes to the ordinance will affect every animal owner in San Antonio.

The ordinance proposal includes the following and more:

Mandatory Spay/Neuter of all dogs!

Any person who keeps a dog over the age of six months that is not spayed or neutered must obtain an Annual \$50 Intact Dog Permit in addition to the \$75 license fee; subject to seizure and impoundment for noncompliance.

All outdoor cats must be spayed/neutered (as is in Rhode Island state law).

All cats roaming at large are exempt from animal nuisance laws which is a public health and safety issue for city residents. Unvaccinated cats can spread Rabies which is fatal to humans. Disease can be spread to humans from cats defecating in flower beds or children's sandboxes.

How will we be able to determine which outdoor cats are spayed/neutered, and more importantly, up to date on their vaccinations?

Breeder/Litter Permit

Must be purchased prior to or within 10 days of the litter's birth. One litter per female dog/cat per year. If a person fails to obtain the permit, the female dog/cat and litter are subject to impoundment. Permit number must be displayed in all advertising or give aways. Breeders are already regulated under existing ordinances for pet limits, animal nuisance and animal cruelty laws just as all pet owners in the city. Permits allow animal control personnel intrusion into private homes at any time without a search warrant.

Pet Limits – Dogs and Cats!

8 Cats or 5 dogs OR aggregate of 8 animals. Must apply for Excess Animal Permit to keep more animals, which mandates all excess animals be sterilized, photograph attached to animal profile sheet for each animal, animals can't be kept exclusively outside, and much more or subject to seizure and impoundment.

Annual Pet License of \$10 altered and \$75 unaltered.

(Now \$5 and \$20 and no one buys them.)

Unlicensed dogs/cats are subject to seizure and impoundment; humanely euthanized if not timely redeemed.

Livestock Limits, Annual Permits and Fees.

No livestock allowed without an annual permit and fee.

\$150 for first animal: bovine or livestock, \$50 each additional animal.

Total of 5 domestic fowl AND livestock allowed which may include 3 domestic fowl and 2 livestock animals.

For more, must apply for Excess Animal Permit (no guarantee of getting it). Domestic Fowl includes but not limited to birds for ornament/show (parakeets, etc.), food, eggs. Livestock includes equines, bovines, sheep, goats and llamas.

Resident Fee of \$25 charged for each animal turned in at Animal Care Services

which means they'll be turned loose on city streets. Animal control departments in cities are equally as important as police and fire departments who have no fees for services to residents. High fees and fines do not work where animals are concerned and result in more animals being killed at the Animal Care Services Facility.

Dangerous Animals

The owner of an animal impounded by Animal Care Services for Dangerous Animal Hearings must post a bond within 3 days to cover the estimated costs of veterinary care, food and board (but not limited to these items). If at the end of 30 days the matter isn't settled, another bond must be posted and renewed every 30 days thereafter. Failure to post bond at any time will be considered voluntary relinquishment of the animal(s) to the city.

Call San Antonio city officials and tell them this will NOT work and what will work:

- **Enforcement of existing animal ordinances: leash laws, animal nuisance and animal cruelty laws.**
- **Educate children and adults in responsible pet care, treatment, and bite prevention.**
- **Target areas of city where most animals are impounded with special programs.**
- **Increase and publicize existing free and low cost pet spay/neuter programs.**

These ordinance changes will be expensive to implement, a nightmare to administer with all the inspections and paperwork, and impossible to enforce. They will require a huge new bureaucracy.

These ordinance changes are not unique to San Antonio. They are the result of a concerted effort by a heavily funded and well organized international fanatic movement, with many local followers. These same proposed changes are being attempted in major cities and small rural communities all over the country.

San Antonio's proposed Animal

Ordinance Revision is an "Animal Rights" Manifesto.

If you live in San Antonio and have an animal, this will affect you!

Help us defeat this proposal which has nothing to do with saving pets!

This is a national legislative agenda and is not a solution to our local animal problems.

If passed, this ordinance will result in:

- * More animals killed at the Animal Care Services Facility.
- * Increased abandonment of unwanted animals on city streets.
- * Increased expense for the Animal Care Services Division.
- * Decrease in pet licenses sold and Rabies Vaccinations.
- * Discrimination against minority pet owners.

Incredible as it sounds, there is a national animal rights legislative agenda to end all use, breeding and ownership of animals: *no rodeo, no circus, no Sea World, no 4-H programs, no dog/cat/bird shows, no hot dogs, ice cream, no assistance animals, no therapy dogs, drug sniffing dogs, search & rescue or police dogs, no animal products for food or clothing, no animals used in medical research, no animals in entertainment or education, no hunting or fishing, no pet ownership, no animals period!*

Imagine the economic impact if they are successful!

For more animal rights information, see:

www.naiaonline.org/articles/archives/animalrightsquote.htm

If this passes, forget the 5 Year Strategic Plan for a No Kill Community by 2012 as this ordinance proposal flies in the face of the No Kill Philosophy, which is programs and services – not legislation. (www.nokilladvocacycenter.org).



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