

TX-RPOA E-News

From RPOA Texas Outreach and
Responsible Pet Owners Alliance
"Animal welfare, not animal 'rights'
and, yes, there is a difference."
Permission granted to crosspost.

March 5, 2009

The big "elephant in the room" has finally stood up! The HSUS bill (an anti-pet bill) which is being touted as "The Puppy Mill Bill," will be filed next week at the Texas State Legislature according to the Houston Chronicle. This bill must be KILLED in committee, not amended!

Filing is being delayed until the March 13th deadline to give us less time (and money) to oppose it -- or so they think. Will you let them get away with this?

RPOA Texas Outreach has paid our lobbyist a retainer but it takes big bucks to stand up to HSUS and Texas Humane Legislation Network and win! We need attorneys, expert witnesses, etc. We don't have big bucks. So if we lose it won't be our fault but the fault of those who don't care enough! Our hands are tied behind our back and it is unbelievable that such apathy exists in these troubled times for animal ownership.

If you personally or your club have been dallying around and haven't donated yet, it is imperative that this be done asap by PayPal at: www.rpoatexasoutreach.com (more information on the website)
or mail: RPOA Texas Outreach, 900 NE Loop 410 #311-D, San Antonio, TX 78209.

Texas Humane Legislation Network and their three lobbyists are working with HSUS to get this onerous bill passed in Texas. The HSUS bill has been filed in 16 states (counting Texas soon) with a stated goal of 34 states this year - defeated in committee in three states already. This is an agenda! It has nothing to do with humane care of animals as existing animal cruelty laws cover all situations. This is an "animal rights" agenda to end all use, breeding and ownership of animals with "guardians" being their preferred word usage instead of "owner."

Note that THLN is opposing HB 1046 (below) which allows animal owners to appeal even after a judge rules their animal be confiscated. Even if declared innocent of all charges, their animals are gone! THLN was responsible for the 2003 law passed which denies that appeal. THLN is a coalition of all "animal rights" extremists in Texas. PETA is joining them in opposing this bill.

Any opposition to their radical agenda/legislation is portrayed as having a commercial interest in animals. RPOA has none and is all volunteer except for our office Program Director! We just love 'em and want to keep 'em! It gets harder and harder every day.

Tiny URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/b3kftk>

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/editorial/6294447.html>

Pick of the litter

Puppy mill and cockfighting bills among the best of Legislature's animal welfare proposals.

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More than two dozen animal-related measures are making their way through the Legislature this session. The proposals reflect the economic and emotional role animals historically have played in Texas. But they also reveal an overdue awareness that animals aren't chattel to be exploited, even tortured, according to human whim.

Sorting through the good, smart and dangerous of these proposals, the Texas Humane Legislative Network has singled out several of the most pressing measures. We urge responsible lawmakers to follow their guidance. THLN is a volunteer group that spends most of its funds on a lobbyist defending animal welfare issues in the Legislature.

Next week, THLN will file its own priority measure: targeting puppy mills, which mass produce dogs and cats in often horrifying squalor. Parent animals are forced to bear litters, often genetically defective, every six months. Their ill or surplus offspring often join Texas' legions of homeless pets.

THLN's measure would make commercial breeders secure a license from the state and submit to inspection. It would also prohibit buying from a commercial pet breeder who didn't show evidence of a license.

Finally - giving a glimpse of how unmonitored the puppy mill business is - it would forbid commercial breeders to possess more than 50 breeding dogs at one time. Because dogs are companion animals (unlike cattle), and because they're kept in cages rather than pens or pastures, there's no way a breeder can give 50 animals, much less their offspring, the attention and care they require.

Animal activists are also applauding a law strengthening anti-cockfighting laws. Cockfighting has been illegal for years, but it's hard to prosecute because it is not a crime to attend a cockfight, to sell and buy cockfighting equipment, or to train birds - by making them fight. The new proposal would change that, in part, by deeming cockfighting paraphernalia - including the fighting birds, recognizable by missing combs and claws removed for spurs - contraband.

Just as important to track, however, are the anti-animal proposals.

House Bill 1046, for instance, would let owners appeal even after a judge rules their animals be confiscated. Under the current law - a good one - owners get a hearing within 10 days if their animals are removed for alleged cruelty. The ruling in that hearing is final. This prevents animal control agencies from having to care for thousands of seized animals while appeals drag on. But it's also a good statement of the best approach to animal cruelty: Once it's established, perpetrators don't get a second chance.

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