

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 11, 2009

OPPOSITION TO HB 458!

Allowing residential subdivisions to set limits on dogs in unincorporated areas of certain counties. This opens the door to later regulation governing dog limits in unincorporated areas in all counties, not just the subdivisions -- a toe in the door, so to speak.

Subdivisions usually have dog limits in deed restrictions anyway.

Thanks to Laura Dapkus, Lone Star Pit Bull Club, for gathering all this information (below) for us. It's very time consuming.

If you can attend this hearing, email us at rpoa@texas.net and let us know as we're compiling a list. If you can't attend you can still help. Call, fax and email to OPPOSE this bill! State your opposition up front!

Laura wrote,

HB 458 is scheduled for a hearing. We need people to testify in Austin. If you cannot travel to Austin, please call or fax today!

for HTML version of this message please see: <http://lsspbcc.com/blog/2009/03/10/hb458/>

TIME & DATE:

2:00 PM or upon final adjourn./recess

Monday, March 16, 2009

PLACE: E2.016 at the State Capitol

HB 458 states:

"The commissioners court of a county with a population of one million or more by order may limit the number of dogs that an individual may keep at a residence located in a residential subdivision in the unincorporated area of the county."

The complete text is here.

<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/BillLookup/Text.aspx?LegSess=81R&Bill=HB458>

According to 2007 estimates, the following counties are now over 1 million people.

Harris 3,935,855

Dallas 2,366,511

Tarrant 1,717,435

Bexar 1,594,493

And these fast-growing counties will reach 1 million people soon:

Travis 974,365

El Paso 734,669

Collin 730,690

Hidalgo 710,514
Denton 612,357

Additionally, once passed into law, it would be easy for the legislature to lower the population threshold.

This law would enable counties to limit the number of dogs you may own, even if there are no homeowners associations or deed restrictions governing dogs.

Please contact the members of the County Affairs Committee with your brief and respectful opposition. Letters and telephone calls are best, followed by fax and e-mail. If you live in the district of one of these members, we especially need you. Find out who represents you: <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/home.aspx>

Talking points:
Limit Laws:

- * Target all pet owners, regardless of the behavior of their animals.
- * Are hard to enforce as pet owners will simply hide their pets.
- * Cause a decline in the number of pets licensed and vaccinated for Rabies.
- * A person with one dog that runs loose or barks all night is a greater nuisance than a person with a dozen dogs that are quiet, clean, and kept at home. Numbers have no relationship to nuisances.
- * Mean fewer homes and foster homes, especially for hard-to-place adult dogs.

Some people choose to live in the country because they have more dogs than can comfortably live in the city. If keeping show dogs, hunting dogs, or rescue and foster dogs is important to a homeowner, he or she tends to do the research on rules and laws before moving. Those who do not keep dogs should do the same and should have different expectations of hearing animal noises in unincorporated areas than in a city or suburb.

You can mail copies of your letter for all of the members to the clerk - however, use USPS Priority Mail and mail it before Friday in order for it to arrive in time. Otherwise, FAX and/or CALL the CAPITOL phone number below. If you live in their districts, please tell the person on the phone - we ESPECIALLY need you to call.

Clerk Revlynn Lawson
EXT E2.130
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768-2910
Phone: (512) 463-0760

Rep. Garnet Coleman (chair)
<http://www.house.state.tx.us/members/dist147/coleman.php>
Capitol Office: CAP GW.17

Capitol Address: P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768
Capitol Phone: (512) 463-0524 FAX: (512) 463-1260
District Address: 5445 Alameda, Suite 501
Houston, TX 77004
District Phone: (713) 520-5355

Rep. Geanie Morrison (Vice Chair)
<http://www.house.state.tx.us/members/dist30/morrison.php>
Capitol Office: CAP GN.11
Capitol Address: P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768
Capitol Phone: (512) 463-0456 FAX: (512) 476-3933
District Address: 1501 East Mockingbird,, Suite 101
Victoria, TX 77903
District Phone: (361) 572-0196

Rep. Leo Berman
<http://www.house.state.tx.us/members/dist6/welcome.htm>
Capitol Office: EXT E2.908
Capitol Address: P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768
Capitol Phone: (512) 463-0584 FAX (512) 463-3217
District Address: P.O. Box 6028
Tyler, TX 75711
District Phone: (903) 939-2400

Rep. Valinda Bolton
<http://www.house.state.tx.us/members/dist47/bolton.php>
Capitol Office: EXT E2.716
Capitol Address: P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768
Capitol Phone: (512) 463-0652 FAX (512) 463-0565
District Address: P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78701
District Phone: (512) 463-0652

Rep. Joaquin Castro
<http://www.house.state.tx.us/members/dist125/castro.php>
Capitol Office: EXT E1.302
Capitol Address: P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768
Capitol Phone: (512) 463-0669 FAX (512) 463-5074
District Address: 6502 Bandera, Suite 106
San Antonio, TX 78238
District Phone: (210) 684-6896

Rep. John E. Davis

<http://www.house.state.tx.us/members/dist129/davis.php>

Capitol Office: CAP 4S.4

Capitol Address: P.O. Box 2910

Austin, TX 78768

Capitol Phone: (512) 463-0734 FAX (512) 479-6955

District Address: 1350 NASA Parkway,, Suite 212

Houston, TX 77058

District Phone: (281) 333-1350

Rep. Marisa Marquez

<http://www.house.state.tx.us/members/dist77/marquez.php>

Capitol Office: EXT E2. 704

Capitol Address: P.O. Box 2910

Austin, TX 78768

Capitol Phone: (512) 463-0638 FAX (512) 463-8908

District Address: P.O. Box 2910

Austin, TX 78768

District Phone:

Rep. Ralph Sheffield

<http://www.house.state.tx.us/members/dist55/sheffield.php>

Capitol Office: EXT E1.422

Capitol Address: P.O. Box 2910

Austin, TX 78768

Capitol Phone: (512) 463-0630 FAX (512)322-9054

District Address: 3000 S. 31st Street, Suite 505

Temple, TX 76502

District Phone: (254) 774-9888

Rep. Wayne Smith

<http://www.house.state.tx.us/members/dist128/smith.php>

Capitol Office: EXT E2.214

Capitol Address: P.O. Box 2910

Austin, TX 78768

Capitol Phone: (512) 463-0733 FAX (512) 463-1323

District Address: 909 Decker Drive,, Suite 104

Baytown, TX 77520

District Phone: (832) 556-2002

RPOA Texas Outreach (501 C4)

Responsible Pet Owners Alliance (501 C3)

900 NE Loop 410 #311-D

San Antonio, TX 78209

Website: www.responsiblepetowners.org

\$15 Annual dues (January - December)

To subscribe or unsubscribe, e-mail rpoa@texas.net.