

TX-RPOA E-News

From Responsible Pet Owners Alliance,

the reasonable voice regarding animal issues in Texas.

Responsible Pet Owners Alliance is an animal welfare organization, not “animal rights” and, yes, there is a difference.

Permission granted to crosspost.

June 18, 2008

Responsible Pet Owners Alliance regretfully has to say “we told you so” and the San Antonio mayor and city council wouldn’t listen last year. It was proven 15 years ago that oppressive animal ordinances with increased fees and fines mean more animals are killed at animal controls especially from owner surrenders, not less. RPOA even dubbed the new ordinance “Mo’ Kill” not “No Kill.”

Unfortunately now it is the animals that are suffering, not the misinformed “animal rights” extremists nor the misinformed city officials who bowed to them and passed it. It has set back all the progress made previously. The extremists are so focused on getting legislation passed to end ALL breeding of pets that they can’t see the obvious solutions. Joel Hailey, Texas Humane Legislation Network board member and attorney with SA’s Voice for Animals, is calling for all “animal rights” activists to go to San Antonio City Council Meeting tomorrow and ask that the Police Department enforce the animal ordinance. Hailey points out that there are 265 classified ads in the newspaper with NO litter permit number. RPOA has researched the ads in the past and find that 60% come from out-of-town people. Good luck, Joel. The vast majority of those ads are Oops One Time Litters, not a regular breeder. We now have packs of dogs and feral cats roaming San Antonio neighborhoods since Animal Care Services hasn’t picked up any dogs for almost two years - unless they are sick, injured or aggressive. This moratorium is nothing new and is just grandstanding. The extremists actually believe that it is kinder “not” to pick up animals than impounding them with possible death. No one wants to kill animals, but is it kind to let them suffer from the heat/cold, no food, shelter or water, get into fights or hit by cars?

And Dallas wants to pass what San Antonio passed? It defies all reason!

It seems Texas Humane Legislation Network is on a roll in Texas with San Antonio’s Animal Care Services director Jef Hale made a new THLN board of directors member along with Hailey. Could this be their reward for getting San Antonio’s ordinance passed?

AND the chairman of the Dallas Shelter Commission Skip Trimble is the treasurer of THLN. What city is next?

Signed: an angry RPOA today, defenders of the human animal bond. It is mindboggling to us that city officials are listening to this cult-like movement that works 24/7 to take away our greatest pleasure in life - our animals! If only John Q Public knew their agenda.

<http://www.mysanantonio.com/business/consumernews/stories/MYSA.061808.03B.pound.4248b55.html>

<http://tinyurl.com/64u5o7>

Packed shelter won’t take most animals through Friday

By Hilary A. Lehman

Express-News

Stray animals can wander the streets more freely this week.

San Antonio Animal Care Services will not accept strays or surrendered pets through Friday. The exception is strays that are aggressive, sick or hurt.

ACS Director Jef Hale explained the reason: When the new, larger ACS shelter opened in January, it increased the time it would hold stray animals from 48 hours to 72 hours. The number of dogs being impounded is up 15 percent from last year, as well, he said.

Those factors created a crowding problem that led to the first moratorium on accepting stray animals since about nine months ago.

Hale said the reason for the spike in animals impounded is difficult to pinpoint, but since the opening of the new shelter, the increase in animal drop-offs has become more marked.

“There’s a lot of publicity that goes with the opening of a new facility,” he said.

Stray animals aren’t the only ones being dropped off, Hale said.

“Unfortunately, a lot of what we’re dealing with is people who want to surrender their own animals.”

Hale said the publicity given to the city’s no-kill plan may also contribute to the problem.

By 2012, San Antonio plans to be a no-kill shelter system. But the week of June 8, ACS took in 1,115 animals and euthanized 724, the ACS Web site said.

“We’re getting a number of people who come in and say, ‘I’ve heard that you are no-kill, and I want to drop my dog off,’” he said. “But we’re not there yet.”

ACS will remain open this week for those interested in adopting animals.

The moratorium at ACS may cause more animals to be dropped off at other local shelters, said Cathy McCoy, director of public relations for the Humane Society/SPCA of Bexar County.

The Humane Society has more stringent rules than ACS about which animals it takes in. Since the city pound stopped taking animals Monday, people have shown up at the Humane Society with strays they don’t know where to take, she said.

The Humane Society is still taking in animals by appointment as space allows and will try to relieve the pound of some of its animals, McCoy said.

Ron Aaron, executive director of the Animal Defense League, said ACS should focus more of its efforts on responsible pet ownership and that refusing to take animals during the moratorium is a step in the right direction.

“The attitude ought to be to have more people keep their dogs and cats than willy-nilly accepting turn-ins,” he said.

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