

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.

April 9, 2009

Everyone has been asking how the Committee Hearing went on HB 1982. That's the Vicious Dog Bill with all dogs over 40 lbs. regulated. Zandra Anderson and Jeff Shaver, Houston attorneys, represented RPOA at the hearing. Zandra wrote a brief from RPOA for each of the committee members.

The San Antonio Express-News has published numerous articles perpetuating the "pitbull" hysteria recently. They have supported the city of San Antonio in the city's quest to make this bill breed specific and recently published an editorial entitled "Texas Law Should Be Breed Specific." We're attempting to educate them on what the bill actually says and get rebuttal allowed. They don't know what the bill says. It seems that RPOA is the only group that seems to know what any of them actually say. See: www.rpoatexasoutreach.org for Summary of Bills.

From: Zandra Anderson

www.TexasDogLawyer.com

HB 1982, Committee Hearing, April 6, 2009: We did GOOD!!!

Texas Veterinary Medical Association comes out in OPPOSITION to HB 1982!!!! This was great news and TVMA testified against the bill!!

The hearing was brutal. We arrived around 1:30 pm for the hearing scheduled for 2:00 pm. We had a good turnout, but lost some of the troops since we did not testify until around 10:30-11:00 PM! Jeff Shaver and I both testified. I think we set the record straight on the misconceptions about the bill and our current state law.

Our current Dangerous Dog law is one of the toughest in the entire nation, so our current laws are very sufficient in dealing with dangerous dogs and their owners. In fact, we have a felony dog bite law which can land the owner in prison for 10-20 years for what his dog does. I think we were able to explain that HB 1982 punishes a dog and its owner for something that has NOT occurred and for a dog in its own home or yard. This is ridiculous.

There were witnesses from San Antonio. This city already has this vicious dog law. There was a public works employee (meter readers) that testified about 3 dog bites but all dealt with loose dogs which our current law covers. The sponsor of the bill testified about the recent death of the infant killed by two dogs in the grandmother's own house. Of course, you cannot legislate intelligence. But even if you could, San Antonio's vicious

dog laws certainly did not prevent this incident or any mentioned which proves that these harsh laws do NOT work. San Antonio's Interim AC Director, Vincent Medley, testified as a resource witness on how the vicious dog laws can work. Well, obviously they are not working.

I submitted a detailed brief joined 113 dog and cat organizations against HB 1982 (many thanks to Carol Williamson, Verjenan Lunenschloss, Laura Dapkus and Pamela Hernandez for getting the list of clubs). The Committee Chair, Rep. Garnet Coleman, was very appreciative for the brief which was nice to hear. I don't think they will line the dumpster with this one because they actually seemed interested. Rep. Coleman acknowledged the howls and barks of opposition they have received lately so keep it up!!!!!!!

It was also good to note that this bill was also opposed by THLN whose director, Rick Bosquet, testified. It is my understanding that HSUS also opposes. Best Friends Animal Sanctuary has sent email alerts in opposition as well. Finally, we have a bill that united animal lovers who all expressed opposition to this awful bill.

Keep those FAXES and CALLS flowing and there is a good chance we can KILL BILL!!

Zandra Anderson
www.TexasDogLawyer.com

Bill:

<http://www.legis.state.tx.us/tlodocs/81R/billtext/pdf/HB01982I.pdf>

Bill's Author: Trey Martinez Fischer, San Antonio
(512) 463-0616
(512) 463-4873 Fax

COUNTY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Clerk: Revlynn Lawson

Phone: (512) 463-0760

The Capitol Address for ALL Representatives:

PO Box 2910, Austin, Texas 78768

Rep. Garnet Coleman (chair)

<http://www.house.state.tx.us/members/dist147/coleman.php>

Capitol Phone: (512) 463-0524 FAX: (512) 463-1260

Rep. Geanie Morrison (Vice Chair)

<http://www.house.state.tx.us/members/dist30/morrison.php>

Capitol Phone: (512) 463-0456 FAX: (512) 476-3933

Rep. Leo Berman

<http://www.house.state.tx.us/members/dist6/welcome.htm>

Capitol Phone: (512) 463-0584 FAX (512) 463-3217

Rep. Valinda Bolton

<http://www.house.state.tx.us/members/dist47/bolton.php>

Capitol Phone: (512) 463-0652 FAX (512) 463-0565

Rep. Joaquin Castro

<http://www.house.state.tx.us/members/dist125/castro.php>

Capitol Phone: (512) 463-0669 FAX (512) 463-5074

Rep. John E. Davis

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

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

Rep. Marisa Marquez

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

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

Rep. Ralph Sheffield

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

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

Rep. Wayne Smith

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

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

RPOA Texas Outreach (501C4 Nonprofit)

www.rpoatexasoutreach.org

Responsible Pet Owners Alliance (501C3 Nonprofit)

www.responsiblepetowners.org

900 NE Loop 410 #311-D

San Antonio, TX 78209

\$15 Annual dues (January - December)

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