



RPOA Strategic Plan
June 1, 2012 – June 1, 2013
Thru the 2013 Texas State Legislative Session
\$150,000 Budget Required (Minimum)
RPOA Texas Outreach “Legislative Action Fund”
To donate: www.rpoatexasoutreach.com



RPOA is a grassroots “We, the Pet Owners!” animal welfare group with over 20 years experience in city, county and state legislative arenas.

Our statewide membership includes concerned "John Q" Pet Owners with all species of pets (mixed breeds/purebreds); dog, cat, bird clubs from all national registries; cat and dog fanciers/exhibitors; all species rescuers and breeders; veterinarians; veterinary technicians; sportsmen; working/hunting dog breed clubs and owners; search & rescue and therapy dog owners; service and guide dog owners; show dog handlers; pet sitters; military dog and other dog trainers; pet groomers; boarding kennels, etc.

LAWSUIT: \$30,000

(BUDGET \$30,000):

TX HB 1451, misnamed “Puppymill Bill,” Lawsuit. No other state has had a lawsuit filed against their HSUS Anti-Breeder Bill. Winning this lawsuit would have a national impact. HSUS, Texas Humane Legislation Network and ASPCA held a joint “Lobby Day” at the Capitol to get this bill passed which was written to eliminate Texas dog and cat breeders, *not* regulate them.

TOTAL LOBBYING COST: \$120,000 (Breakdown Below)

(BUDGET \$100,000) HIRE PROFESSIONAL LOBBYISTS: It will be more costly this Session for multiple reasons, including filing our own bill(s). Bills can be filed in November thru March 2013. “Animal Rights” groups had at least 10 lobbyists last session with 36 bills filed of concern. Major problems exist with the Animal Cruelty Seizure Laws which must be corrected.

(BUDGET \$6,000) ATTORNEY FEES:

Analysis regarding bills that reference legal actions, seizures and court proceedings.

LOBBY TO FILE OUR OWN BILL TO REPEAL & REPLACE HB 1451 W/LOBBYISTS’ HELP:

File our “High Volume Breeders Bill” to repeal and replace the HSUS HB 1451 Anti-Breeder Bill as Oklahoma has done. To be heard by House and Senate ***Agriculture Committees***; move HB 1451 administration to **Texas Agriculture Department**. Eliminate anti-breeder biased Licensed Breeder Committee; new breeder definition to eliminate numbers of intact females possessed as criteria; eliminate USDA regulations required, which can’t be met in private homes; change adult animal definition (6 months to 1 year old).

(BUDGET \$1,000) LOBBY DAY AT THE CAPITOL: Joint Lobby Day with TX animal groups.

(BUDGET \$5,000):

TRAVEL AND MEALS EXPENSES REIMBURSED FOR SPEAKERS AT COMMITTEE HEARINGS, INCLUDING EXPERT WITNESSES AS NECESSARY

(BUDGET \$8,000): PUBLICITY

Austin Billboards, Reporters, Multiple Press Releases: Utilize state political news sources.

(BUDGET \$NO COST) GRASS ROOTS LOBBYING: “EDUCATE MY LEGISLATORS CAMPAIGN”

For our E-News subscribers, Action Alerts with links to website flyers for everyone to print out and send to educate their own personal legislators.

(BUDGET \$NO COST) STRENGTHEN OUR RPOA AUSTIN AREA CHAPTER