

Responsible Pet Owners Alliance

Texas Outreach

FINAL REPORT

85th Session 2017

Texas State Legislature



Text for the bills below can be found at:

<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/>

Click on "85th Session," Bill Number Box; type in bill number.

Thank you to everyone who e-mailed, faxed and called legislators this session!

Our appreciation to our lobbyist former House Speaker Gib Lewis; our diverse RPOA membership; and The Cat Fanciers' Association, The International Cat Association, United Kennel Club, American Kennel Club, American Dog Breeders Association, Endangered Breeds Association, U.S. Association of Reptile Keepers, and U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance for their support!

Every Session we meet the "Animal Rights Brigade" in Austin promoting anti-pet legislation:

Texas Humane Legislation Network (THLN), Humane Society of the U.S. (HSUS), ASPCA, Best Friends Animal Society, Animal Legal Defense Fund, National Anti-Vivisection Society, People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), and the Green Party are usually joined by Texas Federation of Animal Care Societies and Texas Animal Control Association.

Report to Congress on Domestic and International Terrorism On Animal Enterprises by Department of Justice (September 2, 1993): *"Many advocates of animal rights oppose all ways in which animals are confined and utilized by humans, whether it be for food, clothing, servitude, or household pets."*

Texas Humane Legislation Network (THLN) is the Texas "voice" for Humane Society of the U.S. (HSUS), a vegan national "animal rights" organization that has no affiliation with local animal shelters, and is not a government agency. HSUS is PETA in a suit and tie -- anti-hunting, anti-circus and anti-rodeo, anti-zoo, anti-breeding any animals, and opposed to any use of animals, whether you eat them, wear them, or pet them. ASPCA, HSUS, and THLN hold a joint "Humane Lobby Day" in Austin every legislative session. In 2007 HSUS/THLN succeeded in separating the Texas Animal Cruelty Law into two sections: Livestock and Nonlivestock, because of the Farm Bureau's powerful lobby. Pet owners continue to be an easy target for the extremists!

Wayne Pacelle: (Vegan President of the Humane Society of the United States; former Executive Director of Fund for Animals). "We have no ethical obligation to preserve the different breeds of livestock produced through selective breeding ... One generation and out. We have no problems with the extinction of domestic animals. They are creations of human selective breeding."

Cile Holloway, Texas Humane Legislation Network president (THLN Meeting, September 2010):
"Be patient. We have to take things slowly, passing laws in small increments.

- If we pass a small portion of what we ultimately want, we can come back later and add more; it is easier to pass bills that way. Bills can always be strengthened further down the road. Just ensure that you get 'something' on the books, making it easier to pass increased provisions later.*
- In Texas it is virtually impossible to get anything passed having to do with livestock, cattle, chickens, swine, etc. The only thing that Texas citizens will stomach is legislation addressing domestic pets (dogs and cats)."*


2016 Candidates Endorsed by Texas Humane Legislation Network
Do they know what “animal rights” really means?

Brian Birdwell, R-Senate District 22
Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa, D-Senate, District 20
Carlos I. Uresti, D-Senate District 19
Rodney Anderson, R-District 105
Cindy Burkett, R-District 113
Angie Chen Button, R-District 112
Giovanni Capriglione, R-District 98
Nicole Collier, D-District 95
Tony Dale, R-District 136
Sarah Davis, R-District 134
Helen Giddings, D-District 109
Celia Israel, D-District 50




Eric Johnson, D-District 100
Linda Koop, R-District 102
Jodie Laubenberg, R-District 89
Jeff Leach, R-District 67
Morgan Meyer, R-District 108
Joe Moody, D-District 78
Scott Sanford, R-District 70
Matt Shaheen, R-District 66
Kenneth Sheets, R-District 107 (not re-elected!)
Ed Thompson, R-District 29
Chris Turner, D-District 101
Jason Villalba, R-District 114
Gene Wu, D-District 137

*Texas pet owners are not aware that “animal rights” groups work 24/7/365 to legislate pet ownership out of existence! This report shows the fruit of their efforts during the past two years: endorsing candidates in exchange for filing their anti-animal owner bills; then lobbying, and testifying at committee hearings to get them passed. Because we have a “real life,” we cannot camp out in Austin for the entire Legislative Session. **However we do vote and we will NOT forget!***


UNATTENDED PETS IN LOCKED MOTOR VEHICLES

-  **(PASSED)** HB 478 by Israel, Laubenberg, Rinaldi, Gutierrez, Neave, Farrar, Lang, Raney, Uresti : **Granted immunity from civil liability for removing certain individuals (or animals – removed later) from a motor vehicle (defined as self-propelled, trailer, or semi-trailer).** RPOA lobbied successfully to delete all references to “animals.” This bill would have given carte blanche to radical “animal rights” PETA-type extremists to break into locked cars and remove or “release” animals -- which would otherwise be a crime.
- **Rep. Andrew Murr** amended the bill to remove “animals.” Texas Humane Legislation Network says this bill “FAILED” because “animals” were removed: “With that removal there was no animal welfare progress made as intended by the author of this bill.”
 - **WITNESSES FOR:** Katie Jarl (Humane Society of U.S.), Laura Donahue (Texas Humane Legislation Network), 2 members of San Antonio Pets Alive, Austin Pets Alive, and six others.

Three other bills regarding “animals in hot cars” died:

-  **(DEAD)** HB 401 by Villalba, Guillen, Farrar, Lambert, Rodriguez (Eddie), Uresti (Tomas): Relating to civil or criminal liability for leaving certain animals unattended in or removing certain individuals or animals from a motor vehicle. Left pending in committee; died.
-  **(DEAD)** Companion Bill SB 69 by Zaffirini/Watson: Relating to civil or criminal liability for leaving certain animals unattended in or removing certain individuals or animals from a motor vehicle. No committee hearing; died in committee.
-  **(DEAD)** SB 188 by Uresti, Zaffirini: Relating to civil or criminal liability for transporting in, confining in, or removing from a vehicle certain animals. Passed in Senate; sent to House; died in committee.


PET ABUSER REGISTRY

-  **(DEAD)** HB 749 by Farrar: Third Session Rep. Farrar has filed this same bill which was defeated once again – left pending in committee. Establishes a “Pet Abusers Registry” similar to a “Sex Abusers Registry;” creating a criminal offense. This Registry is a national “animal rights” campaign from Animal Legal Defense Fund, a radical group of attorneys seeking changes to the legal status of animals from “property” to “personhood” in our court system.


ANTI-TETHERING

PRIORITY LEGISLATION FOR TEXAS HUMANE LEGISLATION NETWORK (THLN) AND HSUS

Three bills regarding “tethered dogs” were filed this session as “insurance!”

 **(DEAD)** HB 1156 by Sarah Davis/Anderson (Rodney), Minjarez, Laubenberg, Farrar, Alonzo, Anchia, Arevalo, Bohac, Burkett, Button, Capriglione, Coleman, Cortez, Flynn, Geren, Goldman, Gonzalez (Mary), Gooden, Guerra, Gutierrez, Hoard, Johnson (Eric), King (Phil), Koop, Lucio III, Meyer, Miller, Neave, Shaheen, Stucky, Thompson (Ed), Thompson (Senfronia), Vallalba, Wu, Zerwas: Relating to the unlawful restraint of a dog.


- Thanks to Freedom Caucus and Rural Caucus members of the Texas Legislature for leading opposition to this bill and killing it with legislative maneuvers! Special thanks to: Reps. Cecil Bell, Jr., Kyle Kacal, John Cyrier, Tony Tinderholt, Larry Phillips, and Jonathan Stickland.

 **(DEAD)** **Senate Companion Bill SB 1090 by Lucio (to HB 1156):** Relating to the unlawful restraint of a dog. **SB 1090 by Lucio died at the very last stroke before midnight, preventing a House Floor Vote!**


- This was the second legislative session for the HSUS and Texas Humane Legislation Network Bill to promote an anti-tethering bill. RPOA killed HB 1156 (**Companion Bill**) in committee, but it came back to life in the Senate with SB 1090, which passed and then went over to the House for approval.
- Both bills banned use of a chain, which would have been the death knell for all chained dogs as they would chew through other types of tether material in seconds, roam thru neighborhoods, terrifying residents, and eventually be relinquished to animal control for euthanasia.
- These bills were redundant. **Texas Penal Code 42.092 Cruelty to Nonlivestock Animals, Section (a) (7) already defines “Necessary food, water, care, or shelter:” as including food, water, care, or shelter provided to the extent required to maintain the animal in a state of good health.**

WITNESSES FOR SB 1090 and HB 1156: (Who’s Who from Texas “Animal Rights” vegan extremists):


- **TEXAS HUMANE LEGISLATION NETWORK:** Laura Donahue, Shelby Bobosky, Natalie Lynch, Audrey/Michael Tamez, Carri Crowe, Ruby Kovar, Karen Roberts, Skip Trimble, Alicia Zander, Ruth Chambers (all with TX Humane Legislation Network), Randy Turner, (former THLN president). Cheryl Martinez (THLN Corpus Christi Chapter)
- **AUSTIN AREA:** Austin Pets Alive, Austin Humane Society, PLUS 25 INDIVIDUAL “AUSTINITES.”
- **HUMANE SOCIETY OF U.S.:** Katie Jarl and Marion Look-Jameson (with Humane Society of U.S.).
- **CITIES:** Shanon Sims (San Antonio Animal Care Services), City of Fort Worth, San Antonio, Houston and Harris County; Bexar County; Combined Law Enforcement Assoc. of TX (CLEAT); Shanna Igo (Texas Municipal League),
- **ANIMAL CONTROL:** Jamey Cantrell (**Texas Animal Control Association**).
- **PET SHELTER:** Art Munoz (**SPCA of Texas**)
- Katija Gruene (**Green Party of Texas**),
- Elizabeth Choate (**Texas Veterinary Medical Association**).


 **(DEAD)** HB 1961 Rick Miller: Relating to the care and unlawful restraint of a dog. Was apparently a backup in case the other two bills didn’t move. Committee hearing was never scheduled; bill died.

ANIMAL CRUELTY


 **(PASSED) SB 1232 by Huffman, Menendez, Alvarado:** “Bestiality Bill” regarding inappropriate conduct between a person and animal; creating a criminal offense -- passed Senate and was sent over to House Committee, where it easily passed thru the House. RPOA asked that “touching” genitals (including through clothing) be removed, but it was not although this would not have weakened the bill at all. Veterinarians and the Farm Bureau (Animal Husbandry) received “exceptions,” but pet owners are not exempt for bathing, grooming, expressing canine anal glands, birthing, and performing other standard animal care procedures. American Kennel Club dog show judges are required to confirm Conformation Dogs are intact (by touching genitals) which is now illegal! “Animal husbandry” exception is only for “livestock” that are raised for meat, fiber, milk, eggs, or other products.

- **SUPPORTERS FOR:** Katie Jarl (Humane Society of U.S.), Laura Donahue and Natalie Lynch (Texas Humane Legislation Network), Sheriff’s Assoc. of Texas members from Lavaca County, Rockport, Galveston and Limestone County, Harris County, Houston officials, and other law enforcement officers.


 **(DEAD) HB 1087 by Alvarado, Minjarez, Villalba, Moody:** **Companion Bill to SB 1232.** Creation of Bestiality offense. Includes “touching” genitals, even thru clothing. Committee Report sent to Calendars, but never scheduled for House Floor Vote; bill died.

 **(PASSED) HB 162 by Lucio III/Menendez:** Relating to conditions of community supervision for defendants convicted of criminal animal cruelty offenses; authorizing fees. “Allows” an ONLINE responsible pet owners course ---- certified by TX Dept. Licensing & Regulation. Judge can order persons convicted of certain criminal offenses involving animals to attend an “online” course instead of existing courses at municipal animal shelters. Will HSUS be writing this course material?

- **Witness List “FOR”:** Katie Jarl (state director for HSUS) and Ami Gordon (PawEdu, who just happens to already have an “online responsible pet owners’ course”).


 **(DEAD) SB 1792 by Menendez (HB 162 Companion Bill):** Community supervision for defendants convicted of criminal offenses involving animals. Died, no committee hearing.


PRIORITY LEGISLATION FOR TEXAS HUMANE LEGISLATION NETWORK (THLN) AND HSUS

 **(PASSED) SB 762 by Menendez/Zaffirini/Moody:** Relating to the prosecution of offenses involving cruelty to animals and to the inclusion of related conduct in the definition of family violence; increasing a criminal penalty. RPOA objected to the Family Violence Section of the bill which was removed early in the process and focus switched to amending existing TX Animal Cruelty Law Sec. 42.09 and 42.092.


- RPOA opposed the bill on grounds that the Texas Animal Cruelty Law was already one of the strictest in the U.S. with existing punishment possible of a state jail term from 180 days to 2 years in confinement. SB 762 fought its way thru a lengthy process to increase the penalty for certain types of animal abuse to a third-degree felony, which has a punishment of up to 10 years in prison and maximum 20 years for repeat offenders (with optional fine not to exceed \$10,000). The state’s “Criminal Justice Impact Statement” said “decreasing the number of previous convictions required for penalty enhancement for any criminal offense is expected to result in greater demands on the correctional resources of the counties or the state due to a potential increase in the number of individuals placed under supervision in the community or sentenced to a term of confinement within state correctional institutions. In fiscal year 2016, 149 individuals were arrested, 43 were placed under felony community supervision, and 22 were admitted into state correctional institutions for offenses related to certain acts of animal cruelty under existing statute.”


- **Rep. Tony Tinderholt** was outraged that the bill placed “a higher value to a pet over the life of a human being,” and argued against punishing cruelty to animals more harshly than an unlawful abortion! The House Version of SB 762 passed, including Tinderholt’s amendment to limit animal cruelty to a state jail felony! However Rep. Joe Moody vowed to “take it to a Conference Committee” – and they did.
- Text from the Senate Version was restored with the increased penalties for certain animal cruelty crimes. The Conference Committee was composed of Senate Menendez (Chair), Birdwell, Huffman, Lucio, Seliger and House Reps. Moody (Chair), Alvarado, Laubenberg, Phelan, Stucky.
- Animal Cruelty bills are always a top priority for “animal rights” extremists HSUS and THLN; who succeeded in getting the Animal Cruelty Law in Texas Penal Code, Chapter 42.09 split in **2007** (HB 2328 and SB 1100 by Whitmire) into: Livestock Section and Non-Livestock Section. Chapter 42.09 became the Livestock Section which requires “intentionally or knowingly” committing a crime and 42.092 is now the Nonlivestock Section which requires “intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly” committing an offense. Some of the provisions for violations are extremely vague: “transports or confines an animal in a cruel manner,” and “seriously overworks an animal.”
- The PETA types believe that any use of animals is cruel, including cropping dogs’ ears and tails; or even breeding dogs and cats – besides all farm animals. The extremists obtain jobs at animal enterprises and set up the owners for animal cruelty crimes many times. THLN’s Laura Donahue stated: “I think every serial killer, every school shooter, all of these mass casualty criminals that we hear about today all started on animals.” Donahue continued: “The new state law is in line with federal opinion on the topic. We felt that now is the time to update our cruelty code, because the FBI just a year ago began tracking these crimes in their profiling database.” (HSUS speaking?)
- Travis County Assistant District Attorney Erik Nielsen told KXAN: “If they [court cases] go to trial, it may persuade a jury in the opposite way and say we just don’t think killing this dog, or cat, or whatever the animal was, is worth 10 years in prison, 8 years in prison.”
- **Rep. Villalba** claimed in his Capitol Report Editorial (June 6, 2017) that “he came to Austin to make a difference.” The THLN endorsed 2016 candidate made a peculiar statement: “While some championed a defense for those who seek to torture and maim our furry family members, the rest of us were trying to find a compassionate way to feed the children in our schools who might not have enough to pay for lunch every day.” No one defends animal neglect or animal cruelty.
- **WITNESSES FOR SB 762:** Shelby Bobosky (President TX Humane Legislation Network), Laura Donahue (Exec. Director, THLN), Marion Look-Jameson (Humane Society of U.S.), Natalie Lynch (THLN), Skip Trimble (THLN – Board member), Alicia Zander (THLN).
- **Of Special Interest “WITNESS FOR” was Della Lindquist, attorney with TX Dept. of Licensing & Regulation, (which administers the state’s Dog & Cat Breeder Law). Lindquist assisted THLN, Humane Society of the U.S. and TX Veterinary Medical Association in writing HB 1451, the onerous 2011 Dog and Cat Breeder bill!**
- SB 762 was signed by governor June 9, 2017.


 **(DEAD) Companion Bill HB 1357 by Moody/Minjarez/Farrar/Villalba/Gooden/Lucio III:** Relating to the prosecution of offenses involving cruelty to animals and to the inclusion of related conduct in the definition of family violence; increasing a criminal penalty. Passed out of committee, sent to Calendars, no vote scheduled. Bill died.

 **(DEAD) HB 748 by Farrar:** Relating to certain costs associated with certain court proceedings for cruelly treated animals: authorizing fees and costs.


- This is a “repeat” THLN bill from last session where it failed. Authorized a city or county court to order the owner guilty of animal cruelty to pay county’s or city’s attorneys’ fees and court costs, including costs of investigation, expert witnesses, in addition to housing and care for animals during impoundment and cost of humanly destroying animals if so ordered. If the owner wins the case, there are no provisions for the owner to recover attorney fees! Cards are stacked against the owners at the county or city level as it is.
- **All animal cruelty cases are not meritorious and this bill’s real purpose is to make the appeal for animal cruelty cost prohibitive.** The owner doesn’t get a right to a trial by jury until the appeal so owners can be forever divested of their animals and never get a jury trial because of the cost of appeal.
- **Texas Humane Legislative Network** has a history of taking away due process rights for animal owners and has done everything in their power to prevent appeals, beginning in 2003, when THLN’s HB 1119 took away the right to future appeals. Appeals were given back to owners in 2007 due to efforts of RPOA and friends, but THLN continues to lobby for their anti-pet agenda and will be back next session.
- **WITNESSES FOR:** Laura Donahue (Texas Humane Legislative Network), Katie Jarl (Humane Society of U.S.), Travis County and Harris County Commissioners Courts, Texas Association of Counties, Texas Conference of Urban Counties, only two individuals: Rob Block, Thomas Parkinson.
- **AGAINST:** Emily Gerrick (Texas Fair Defense Project), Exotic Wildlife Association, Responsible Pet Owners Alliance.

 **(DEAD) SB 1057 by West:** Relating to inspection of certain vacant properties for abandoned animals; providing a civil penalty. No committee hearing scheduled; died in committee.

 **(DEAD) HB 3079 By Uresti, Tomas.** Relating to imposing a tax on animal-tested cosmetics. No committee hearing held. Died in committee.

 **(DEAD) HB 2805 by Price/Farrar:** Relating to payment of costs for a cruelly treated animal abandoned by a tenant. No committee hearing scheduled; died in committee.

RESCUERS/MEDICAL RESEARCH

 **(DEAD) HB 2490 by Minjarez/Farrar:** Relating to adoption of cats and dogs previously used for research at public institutions of higher education. Bill says institute is mandated to offer the animals for adoption. (“SHALL” not “MAY”)

- This decision should be at the discretion of the institution, not mandated by HSUS/THLN law.


- **WITNESSES FOR:** Katie Jarl (Humane Society of U.S.), Martin Palmer (Beagle Freedom Project, a controversial rescue group), Myra Leo (Texas Humane Legislation Network), Susan Ross (Best Friends Animal Society).
- **OPPOSED:** Elizabeth Choate (Texas Veterinary Medical Association), Lorraine Hayden (Texas Society for Biomedical Research).

 **(DEAD) SB 1930 by West:** (**Companion Bill to HB 2490**) No committee hearing. Died in committee.


RESCUERS AND ANIMAL SHELTERS

Texas State Law defines a “Releasing Agency”

“as a public or private animal pound, shelter, or humane organization. The term does not include an individual who occasionally renders humane assistance or shelter in the individual’s home to a dog or cat.”
RPOA has administered a Pet Education, Assistance & Rescue Program statewide for 26 years.
We operate no shelter and operate as individuals in their homes or foster homes for animals.
There is no clear definition in state law that defines our Rescue Program and shows whether these bills would affect us or not. Our rescues are more than “occasionally.”

 **(DEAD) HB 1916 by Elkins:** Relating to “intake and disposition records” of animal shelters (including municipalities) and releasing agencies (rescue groups?).


- Mandated lengthy monthly reports, including animal transfers, which must be available for inspections at reasonable times. Bill passed out of committee, sent to Calendars Committee for scheduling on House Floor. Placed on House calendar but no Floor Vote was held.
- **WITNESSES FOR:** Lee Greenwood, Bethany Heins, and Susan Ross with Best Friends Animal Society and one other person; David King. “Alley Cat Allies” supported the bill; sent out an action alert.
- **AGAINST:** City of El Paso.

 **(DEAD) SB 1084 by Kirk Watson:** Relating to medical treatment and care of animals by certain persons in animal shelters and “releasing agencies.” No hearing held, died in committee.

- This bill was reportedly needed because of a recent court decision and supposedly created good faith protections for veterinarians who provide new, innovative, low cost, or even unsuccessful treatments for a shelter. At the present time, shelter veterinarians are exempt from TBVME regulation under the designated caretaker exemption.
- SB 1084 also created a new status for “safety net shelters” and supposedly provided more protection for a member of the public who takes a shelter pet home.
- “Animal Association of Texas” (a “No Kill” Austin group) was the source of the proposed legislation which Board Chairman Brenda Collier claimed would protect veterinarians and employees from discipline when working to save animals lives under the protocol of a vet using innovative, low cost treatment.

 **(DEAD) HB 2390 by Eddie Rodriguez:** (Companion to SB 1084). No hearing held, died in committee.


MUNICIPAL ANIMAL CONTROL FACILITIES

 **(DEAD) HB 233 by Eddie Rodriguez/Phil King:** Relating to the exception of certain information related to the humane disposition by a municipality or county of an animal from required disclosure under the public information law.

- **STATE WEBSITE BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE:** Information that identifies a person who adopts a cat or dog from a municipal or county animal shelter should be confidential to protect the person from harassment or unwanted contact by someone attempting to reclaim a pet. Bill seeks to make personally identifying information of such a person confidential. Passed out of committee, went to Calendars, placed on General State Calendar, but no vote was scheduled.
- ***“Pet Adopters” information would not be subject to disclosure under public information law -- making it impossible for pet owners to find their impounded dogs if “adopted out” before the owner could reclaim same from municipal shelters and/or rescue groups. This information is vital to tracking lost pets by their owners due to woefully short hold periods at shelters. Their pet would never be found. Mistakes occur at shelters making location of a lost pet like finding a needle in a haystack. Sometimes they fail to scan a chipped pet or identify as wrong breed/gender on public information.***
- **WITNESSES FOR:** Shelby Bobosky (President, Texas Humane Legislative Network), Laura Donahue (Texas Humane Legislation Network), Robert Trimble (Texas Humane Legislation Network), Lee Greenwood and Susan Ross (Best Friends Animal Society),
- **Cities** of Denton, El Paso, Fort Worth, and Weatherford; Texas Municipal League. Tri-City Animal Shelter; TX Federation of Animal Care Societies. Kent Glenn and Elizabeth Choate (TX Veterinary Medical Assoc.).
- And one individual: Steven Heath.
- **AGAINST:** Kelley Shannon (Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas)


 **(DEAD) HB 1984 by Burkett/Laubenberg/Thompson, Senfronia/Bonnen:** Relating to quarantine of certain animals.

- Regulations for veterinarians regarding animals held in quarantine for rabies exposure at an animal shelter or veterinary office. Required protections to ensure that pet owners are properly notified throughout quarantine process and that quarantined animals are properly identified.
- **WITNESSES FOR:** Laura Donahue (Texas Humane Legislation Network) and Chris Swain (Self);
- **WITNESSES AGAINST:** Elizabeth Choate (Texas Veterinary Medical Association), Mary Egan (Self, TVMA), Richard Reinap (Self, TVMA), Kent Glen (Weatherford Parker County Animal Shelter).


 **(DEAD) SB 772 by Uresti/Uresti (Tomas):** Authority of code enforcement officer when performing official duties to carry an instrument for deterring animal bites.

- **WITNESSES FOR:** City of San Antonio and Fort Worth.
- Passed Senate; sent to House Committee; passed and sent to Calendars; but no House Floor Vote. Bill died.



DANGEROUS DOGS

 **(PASSED) SB 2283 by Perry:** Very limited in scope, relating to dogs that attack persons or are a danger to persons; provisions relating to dangerous dogs.


- Police Department is designated as animal control authority in an incorporated city with population more than 1,000 and county seat of county with less than 1,600 population where the dog is kept. (City of Paducah, Cottle County) Signed by governor.

-  **(DEAD) HB 3517 by Gervin-Hawkins:** Allows petition for city animal control authority to manage dangerous dogs and aggressive dogs in city's ETJ.
 - Out of committee to Calendars, but no vote on House Floor.
 - **WITNESS FOR:** Heather Lockhart (Texas Municipal League).
 - No other witnesses.





DANGEROUS WILD ANIMALS

-  **(DEAD) HB 3693 by Wilson:** Relating to certain defenses to prosecution in criminal case based on fear of injury by an animal (defined as "dangerous wild animal"). No committee hearing; died.
-  **(DEAD) HB 2274 by Guillen:** Relating to registration and regulation of dangerous wild animals; providing penalties, creating a criminal offense, and authorizing a fee. Five pages! Banned private ownership of listed wild animals with certain ownerships grandfathered; established seizure provisions, etc. Would have replaced current Dangerous Wild Animal Law in Texas (also written by THLN); would no longer be county "animal registration agencies" and "certificates of registration" (permits) for owning the listed species. Would be banned! Repealed Chapter 822, Health & Safety Code, Subchapter E. Out of committee; sent to Calendars; no floor vote scheduled. Bill died.






WITNESSES FOR: Laura Donahue (Texas Humane Legislation Network), Katie Jarl (Humane Society of U.S.), Edna Stambaugh (Texas Animal Control Association), Timothy Harrison (Self), City of El Paso; 7 individuals.

AGAINST: Gib Lewis (Exotic Wildlife Assoc.), Doug Terranova (United States Zoological Assn.), Mike Wood (Texas Deer Assoc.), Marcus Cook (All Things Wild Zoological Parks).
-  **(DEAD) SB 1879 by Menendez (Companion Bill to HB 2274).** No committee hearing held. Bill died.



ASSISTANCE/SERVICE ANIMALS

-  **(DEAD) HB 996 by Capriglione/Minjarez/Springer:** Relating to regulation of business entities that provide assistance animals; providing a civil penalty.
 - No committee hearing; died in committee.
-  **(DEAD) SB 1425 By Hancock, Kelly.** Senate companion bill to HB 996.
 - No committee hearing; died in committee.
-  **(DEAD) HB 3229 By Phelan, Dade.** Relating to the use of an assistance animal that provides assistance to a person with a disability.
 - Defines "Assistance animal" and "Service Animal."
 - Provides a criminal penalty for misrepresenting the need for an assistance animal to a landlord; fine of not more than \$300 and 30 hours of community service.
 - No committee hearing; died in committee.
-  **(DEAD) HB 2992 by Neave:** Assistance animals used by persons with disabilities; prosecution of offense misrepresenting an animal as an assistance animal or service animal.
 - **WITNESSES FOR:** Janet Davidson, Debi Gerwitz and Tawsha Nichols (Destination K-9), David Mintz (Texas Apartment Assoc.); Sheri Soltes (Service Dogs, Inc.); Texas Restaurant Assoc.; Texas Assoc. of Business; National Federation of Independent Business/Texas.
 - **AGAINST:** Gyl Switzer (Mental Health America of Texas).
 - Died in Local & Consent Calendar Committee.




VETERINARIANS

-  **(PASSED) SB 721 by Perry/Kolkhorst/Miles (Sponsor: Sarah Davis):** Treatment and care by licensed medical professionals to animals in certain facilities.
 - Animals in possession, control, or custody of an entity accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries, or the Zoological Association of America.
 - Passed and signed by governor.
 - **WITNESSES FOR:** Joe Flanagan (Senior Veterinarian) Houston; Dan Finch (Texas Medical Assoc.) Nancy Lung (Chief Editor, Journal of Zoo and Wildlife Medicine).
 - **NO OPPOSITION.**
-  **(DEAD) HB 1375 by Sarah Davis/Stucky/Anderson, “Doc,”/Oliverson (Companion to SB 721):** Treatment and care provided by licensed medical professionals to animals in certain facilities.
 - No hearing, died in committee.
-  **(DEAD) SB 126 by Huffines:** Relating to Internet broadcast of open meetings of State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners.
 - No committee hearing; bill died in committee.
-  **(DEAD) HB 3998 by Anderson, Charles (Doc):** Practice of veterinary medicine; medical treatment and care of animals in shelters and releasing agencies (rescuers);
 - Four pages of regulations -- expanding applicability of occupational license.
 - No committee hearing; died in committee.
-  **(DEAD) HB 4057 by Cyrier: Identical to HB 3998.** Practice of veterinary medicine; medical treatment and care of animals in shelters and releasing agencies (rescuers); expanding applicability of occupational license.
 - No committee hearing; died in committee.

REGULATIONS

-  **(DEAD) HB 1107 by Reynolds/et al:** County regulation of roadside vendors with animals and solicitors. Allowed Fort Bend County to be included in list of counties that have authority to prohibit roadside vending in unincorporated portions of the county.
 - Passed by House; sent to Senate; out of committee, but no Senate Vote scheduled. Bill died.
 - **WITNESSES FOR:** Fort Bend County Commissioners; Fort Bend manager of Legislative Affairs; Fort Bend County Judge; Jim Short (lobbyist) Fort Bend County; Texas Conference of Urban Counties.
 - **AGAINST:** Terri Hall (Texas Turf/ Texans for Toll Free Highways).
-  **(DEAD) SB 1620 by Taylor, Van:** Regulating raising or keeping six or fewer chickens by a political subdivision.
 - Passed Senate and sent over to House. House Committee report sent to Calendars, but never had a House Floor Vote. Bill died in Calendars Committee.
 - **WITNESSES FOR:** Terry Holcomb (Self), Judith McGeary (Farm & Ranch Freedom Alliance), Adam Cahn (Cahnman’s Musings), and 4 individuals.
 - **AGAINST:** Cities of Colony, Houston, Fort Worth, and Northeast Partnership for Economic Development).

LIVESTOCK (Pertaining to Horses)

-  **(PASSED) HB 2817 by Gonzalez, Mary/King, Tracy/Stucky:** Prosecution and punishment for criminal mischief involving death of a head of cattle or bison or a horse. Passed; signed by governor.
- **WITNESSES FOR:** Kaleb McLaurin (Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association), Brian Hawthorne (Sheriffs' Association of Texas); Todd Kercheval (Livestock Marketing Assoc. of Texas); David Sinclair (Game Warden Peace Officers Assoc.); Robert Turner (Texas Sheep & Goat Raisers Assn.; Independent Cattlemen's Assn.); Marissa Patton (Texas Farm Bureau).
 - **AGAINST:** No witnesses.
-  **(DEAD) SB 1204 by Perry:** Senate Companion Bill to HB 2817.
- No committee hearing held; bill died.
-  **(DEAD) SB 1978 by Schwertner:** Punishment for theft of cattle, horses, exotic livestock, exotic fowl, sheep, swine, or goats; increasing criminal penalty; imposing fee.
- No committee hearing scheduled. Died in committee.