

TX-RPOA E-News

>From Responsible Pet Owners Alliance Texas Outreach

Crossposting is encouraged.

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In spite of opposition from the American Kennel Club and RPOA Texas Outreach, Waco passed their "Animal Friendly Ordinance" August 22nd, but the ordinance is anything but friendly to pet owners or animals. It's the usual national Animal "Rights" legislative agenda that has been a proven failure for over 20 years. Waco's animal problem was supposedly loose or stray animals which these revisions do not address and will surely cause more animals to be dumped.

**MANDATORY SPAY/NEUTER:** Waco dog/cat owners are breaking the law if they own dogs and cats over 4 months of age that are NOT spayed/neutered (NO show dog exemption). Owners must retain proof of sterilization. The animal control officer or agents will seize/impound all animals found in violation of any provision of this ordinance.

Waco rescinded their Intact Animal Permit as San Antonio has done. It is unenforceable! Unfortunately wasted years go by when cities could address animal problems with positive messages, programs and services. There is no silver bullet!

**MICROCHIP:** Dogs and cats must be microchipped; except for community ear tipped cats. Impounded dogs/cats will be microchipped at owner's cost, plus impoundment fees.

**IMPOUNDMENT:** Dogs/cats will be spayed/neutered if over 4 months of age prior to release with owner paying cost plus impound fees. First time impounded animals that belong to a "breeder" (undefined!) are exempt from spay/neuter if microchipped; has health statement; and pays all impound fees. Upon second impoundment, animal will be spayed/neutered prior to being released to owner. Will all these costs encourage reclaims?

The animal control officer may inspect premises prior to the impounded animal's return and anytime later to ensure continued compliance; all his expenses paid by owner. A civil action may be filed to enforce this chapter.

Health Statement is required for transfer or sale of dogs and cats and retained by veterinarian and original owner/seller for minimum of 3 years.

ALL animals in the city must have some type of identification. Exempt animals: mice, rats, rabbits, guineas, hamsters, gerbils, ferrets, fowl, and snakes. Exempt from Running at Large are vaccinated cats wearing id or left ear tip indicating Trap-Neuter-Return.

The Animal Welfare Advisory Board has authority to hear animal complaints from residents and place remedial requirements upon animal owners; such as: Leash & muzzle, sterilization, confinement outdoors, relocation of confinement area, confinement indoors, signs, insurance, restitution, training, removal from city, limit or prohibit animal ownership for up to 5 years, and require person to sell, give away or humanely dispose of animals at issue and state time frame for the owner to comply.