

Pay Attention TEXAS!!

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 cross post. October 7, 2007, More incremental steps by the "animal rights" extremists to stop all breeding of animals whether you eat them, wear them or pet them... There has been a shortage of puppies and small dogs in Denver, CO, and the North East for some time with dogs being imported from other countries or other US cities. Legislate ... until there are none. RPOA has many members in the Houston area but had no idea that Breeder Permits were even being considered there. No one buys them and they've been a failure everywhere they passed. They are impossible to enforce with the Internet and cell phones. In 1991, this was proposed in San Antonio by local "animal rights" extremists and defeated. We were told the permits wouldn't be available unless property was commercially zoned. It's now being disguised as a Litter Permit in the proposed San Antonio ordinance revisions. Hope you've been to the Action Alert on our website and contacted SA city officials to oppose their ordinance provisions. (<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/metropolitan/5192941.html>)

Oct. 6, 2007, 2:58PM Breeders now on a short leash Houstonians who sell unaltered dogs or cats may be surprised to learn they need a permit

By SALATHEIA BRYANT
BREEDER PERMITS:

Who needs one: Anybody who sells in the city dogs or cats that have not been spayed or neutered. Since when: Became effective July 1. . How much: \$100 annual fee. Or else: First-time offenders will get a warning with 30 days to comply. Citation can carry a fine of \$50 and \$2,000. From their well maintained southwest Houston home, Jim and Nancy Lynch breed and sell English Springer spaniel pups. In 17 years, they've sold 45 from six litters, for \$750 each. They play with the puppies, make sure they're healthy and have clean bedding and keep meticulous birth records. They are particular about who gets their pooches, sometimes turning away cash buyers. But the Lynches and untold numbers like them are breaking city law, which became effective July 1 and requires anyone selling cats or dogs that aren't spayed or neutered to have a \$100 annual permit. "We're not commercial breeders," said Jim Lynch. "This is not a business for me. It's a hobby to raise companion dogs for selective families." But under the city's definition of commercial breeders, they are. "Yeah they are, they just don't know it," said Bureau of Animal Regulation and Care director Kent Robertson. "If they breed and sell for any reason, they have to have a permit." Combing classified ads: The city's ordinance encompasses the mom-and-pop, occasional and professional breeder. Robertson hopes the regulation will reduce the number of unwanted animals that continue to be problematic in Houston. The Lynches said they would pay for the permit, but say the ordinance doesn't fit the problem of irresponsible breeding. "It's a tax. It's extortion," said Jim Lynch. "You're going after the wrong person. The problem is the dogs where people don't know who the dad is." In the three months since the ordinance went into effect, no one has applied for the permit, according to city records. Robertson said his bureau sent letters to veterinarian clinics informing them of the requirement. Kennel operators and pet owners who register their unaltered pets with the city can expect a letter as well. As part of the enforcement, the bureau next week will go through classified ads and contact sellers. On any given day, ads offer Persian and Sphinx kittens, border collies, boxers, Chihuahuas, Yorkshire terriers and Jack Russells for sale with contact numbers using the Houston 713 area code. Many of the breeders contacted for this story said they did not know a permit was required. One seller, who has a city kennel permit, said he is willing to comply with the ordinance after talking with Robertson. Effectiveness disputed Pat Snyder, who operates a rescue facility for Siberian huskies, does not think the ordinance will do much to reduce the pet overpopulation. Only responsible breeders will comply with the law, Snyder said, while those she called "backyard breeders" will keep operating under the radar. "It's like a thorn in the butt to a responsible breeder," she said. "To the other people, it don't make a difference. Once in a while someone might get caught." Robertson said the city's 19 animal control officers will do a better job enforcing the ordinance than critics think. Violators will first get a warning letter asking them to comply within 30 days. A citation can carry a fine between \$50 and \$2,000. He would like those breeders who obtain a permit to include their permit numbers in their classified ads. "We're not saying all breeders should be banned. They need to pay their fair share," Robertson. "It might be a shock for folks to begin. We'll be fair with everybody."

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