

Whines & Howls

Larry Powell,

Thank you for your article in the September issue ["Free dogs," September, 2007]. In the two and a half years we've lived in East Dallas, my husband and I have rescued 10 stray dogs in our neighborhood. We get them medically treated and neutered or spayed, then foster them until we find a loving home. I've told people about this phenomenon in our neighborhood, and you finally confirmed it. There are so many animals out there, usually starved, limping, and otherwise in bad shape. We've rescued Rottweilers, pit bulls, Akitas, and kitties in storm drains. All are gorgeous, loving animals that are thrilled to live in warm, loving homes. So why are people paying for animals? I just don't get it. We will continue to rescue animals, and work on helping people feel more comfortable rescuing strays.

I also read the article in that issue about Skip Trimble and the Texas Humane Legislation Network. I've since been in touch with them and plan to get involved so I can reach more people and animals.

Thanks so much for your article. You're doing wonderful things by calling attention to the thousands of "free" animals roaming our streets.
Paula Miller, Dallas

Urban Animal staff,

You folks should know that, thanks to the list of various animal organizations in your magazine, many critters' lives have been saved. My wife and I have been active in animal rescue for several years and are volunteers with Animal Guardians of America (AGA). We have answered the AGA phone line for the past two years, and without many of the groups listed in your magazine, we would not have been able to refer callers to organizations which could help them.

In North Texas, more than 200,000 pets are killed in municipal shelters each year, an obscenity that transcends words. Meanwhile, *Urban Animal* magazine and small rescue groups do what we can. Thanks for helping fight the good fight.
Bob & Natalie Blankenship, Dallas

Our elected representatives

When we highlighted two state legislators last month, Dan Branch and John Carona, that work in a positive way with animal-welfare proponents, we ran an incorrect photo of Rep. Branch. Here's what he looks like. Carona and Branch have the

best interests of animals at heart and they have helped push through important local legislation. You can contact Representative Branch in Austin to thank him for his support of animal welfare issues at 512-463-0367.



Rep. Dan Branch

Who elected these guys?



Sam Johnson (top to bottom), Jeb Hensarling, and Joe Barton voted against making dog fighting a federal crime. The law passed despite their indifference and Michael Vick got arrested anyway.

On the other hand, there are those elected officials, that locals sent to Washington, who vote the other way on animal cruelty. A recently passed federal law against dog fighting was instrumental in the arrest and prosecution of Michael Vick and his posse at Bad Newz Kennels in Virginia. Guess who voted against that law?

Sam Johnson, Jeb Hensarling, and Joe Barton will be quick to put spin on their actions, saying they voted against it because animal cruelty should be prosecuted at the state level. In other words, in Washington, they have more important issues to worry about than animal suffering. But without the federal law, Michael Vick and those he hangs with would still be torturing and killing dogs every day. Without the law these guys voted against, we would have fewer weapons in the crusade against dog fighting. No matter what support you may give them in general, let them know they did wrong on this one.