



TEXAS DOG HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

# UNLEASHED

We Stand for the Rights of All Dog Hunters!

Protect and Promote

Volume 2, Issue 2 • April 31, 2011



## Letter from the President

**Paul Teegardin**

*President, Texas Dog Hunters Association  
pwt\_3@yahoo.com*



I am Paul Teegardin and live in Briscoe County, Texas with my wife, Emily. Emily and I run a commercial cow calf, yearling, and horse operation in Briscoe and Motley counties. Emily is also the county attorney, as well as having a private law practice. Briscoe County is in the south east corner of the panhandle and has a population of around 1,500 residents. I am serving as the interim TDHA president and have been a TDHA BOD for three years.

Good quality dogs are a big part of our lives, we use them daily in our cattle business where they allow us to handle our stock without hiring extra hands to do much of the work. We also use our dogs to help protect our operation from the marauding herds of feral hogs that infest this area.

Working dogs are more than a hobby or a past time for me, they are a main focus of my daily life. Raising, training, and working top quality dogs is a passion for me. They are my partners in my business as well as hunting companions. This relationship with my dogs is what brought me to TDHA. I was very troubled by the legislation being proposed in Austin that would restrict how I care for and use my dogs and I found like minded organized people working for the cause in the name of the Texas Dog Hunters Association.

I am asking all TDHA members to renew their memberships and recruit all dog hunters they know to join as well. There is strength in numbers and we need all the members and support we can get. If you have the time and the ability to volunteer and work for TDHA, that's great, but if you just want to join and support the cause we need that as well. TDHA is a group effort, so to speak, the officers, BOD and the members work together to benefit all dog hunters. I have had some fun and have met some great people through TDHA and I encourage everyone to pitch in and work for a great cause.

Make no mistake, there are well funded groups that are working day and night to take your dogs away and make hunting with dogs against the law. The ONLY thing that stands in the way of this attack is the good men and women of the state of Texas who will stand up and say, enough is enough. Your voice can be heard, you can make a difference, join me and the TDHA in the fight for your rights as dog hunters. We, as sportsmen, need to find the time, "raise" the money, and stand united, to fight the aggressive animal right activist that stringently oppose us. There are many dog hunting and working dog groups in the state of Texas, we all must coordinate and organise our efforts to be as effective as possible in fighting legislation.

In my short period of time as Interim President I had the honor of working with our Directors and Members on the 2011 Hunt for the Hungry, our most successful to date. With our contestants working alongside their dogs, they were able to bring in 34,700 pounds of pork to feed the Needy. Many of the hunters were not TDHA Members but all came together with one goal in mind, which was to compete for some great prizes as well as providing a tremendous amount of meat to feed the needy. Without TDHA workers and volunteers being on standby at the Wilbur Baber venue, to help unload, weigh and load, into reefer trucks I cannot even imagine how we could have made this Event so successful. Thanks to all.

This is election time for New Officers and Board of Directors of the TDHA. Our yearly election meeting will be held in Cleburn, Texas, on June the 4th, at the West End Grill, at 1629 West Henderson, beginning with lunch at 11:00, for those who care to eat first, then followed by the meeting beginning at 1:00PM. We ask that all Members that can, come and participate. Vote to support your candidate, share your ideas, and make some new friends.

Support TDHA, as we endeavor to use all of our resources to fight for all hunting and working dog owners.

TDHA's Newsletter, Unleashed, is also published on TDHA Website ([www.tdha.org](http://www.tdha.org)). Editing of articles appearing in the Newsletter has been approved by writers of said articles. Newsletter will be forwarded only to current Members. Questions and/or comments should be e-mailed to [u2also@peoplepc.com](mailto:u2also@peoplepc.com) or [pwt\\_3@yahoo.com](mailto:pwt_3@yahoo.com).

### Upcoming Event

**Fundraising Baying for TDHA to be held by Central Texas  
Bay Pen-Grosbeck, Texas. Date to be announced  
on TDHA website.**

# TDHA Hunt/ Hallettsville

David Sikes

Outdoors Columnist, Corpus Christi Caller-Times  
President Elect Texas Outdoor Writers Association  
sikesd@caller.com

My perspective of the Texas Dog Hunters Association Hunt for the Hungry in Hallettsville was limited to activities at the Wilbur Baber Complex. It would not have been practical for me to spend two days in the field trying to keep up with one or more of the 68 teams of hog hunters in the heat of competition.

I can only imagine, based on my limited view of these hunts, what the hunters must have endured during their quest for glory, excitement and pork for the less fortunate.

Back at the pavilion, the gun and outdoor show was peaceful and clean compared with what the 254 men and women were experiencing in the field, night and day. But it was enlightening just the same to meet and speak with professional outfitters, retailers and dog people such as Josh White, Ned Makim with the New South Wales Game Council, the folks with Wild Boar USA/Ugly Dog Ranch and Doug Mason, who requires no introduction. The overwhelming message I got from all my conversations is that their love for the sport is rooted deeply in their love for the dogs.

From the treatment and affection shown toward these finely trained beasts to the care and expense focused on their safety, I came to understand why they do it.

But apparently this is not enough for the Texas Dog Hunters Association. A big part of the reason I agreed to write about this event was the charity element. I wanted to dispel some of the myths about the hog-hunting culture by illustrating the goodness inherent in the organization. I wanted to highlight the pest control aspect of hog hunting, while showing that it's not about killing, but rather giving.

I had no idea from the outset the extent of the TDHA's charity. Five years of giving has produced an impressive amount of food for the hungry. I also was impressed with a well organized weigh-in run exclusively by volunteers and their families. I was happy to see kids such as Savannah Woods involved as well as many other younger children in the audience.

The competition produced 34,716 pounds of field-dressed hogs. That's about 17,000 pounds of clean boneless pork. Meat from the event will feed 95 people one meal each day for a year or 34,675 meals. Since 2008, the TDHA has provided meat for 112,420 meals. The field-dressed hogs were transported by H-E-B trucks to a game processor and distributed through Hunter's Harvest ministry to the Open Door Mission and the Church at Bethel's Family, both in Houston, and to Pacto con Dios (Joe Lee's ministry) in San Marcos.

Texas should be grateful for what you do. Good luck next year.



# Anti-Dog Legislation Bills

Richard Benson

Member, TDHA

Legislation Committee

rchr\_d\_benson@yahoo.com

I enjoy reading the Public Forums as everyone speaks their opinions on all sorts of topics and whether they are right or wrong, who are we to judge. Much can be learned by reading the experiences people have done correctly and by listening to their mistakes. Not too long ago, someone was asking everyone to contact their representatives to oppose a bill and someone came on and posted, "Why do we need to contact our representatives? I kinda like the way things are right now so why do we want to change anything?" Unfortunately there are many, many folks out there with this same line of thinking. They're not aware of the fact that it is the "they's" (antis) that want to change things, not the "we's". This article is to attempt to explain some of the anti-dog legislation bills that have been filed in this years session.

Let's start with **\*HB 998 by McClendon** relating to the civil liability of and insurance requirements for owners of certain dogs. (<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/82R/billtext/html/HB00998I.htm>) Mandates civil liability and liability insurance requirements of at least \$100,000 for all male unneutered breeds of dogs weighing 20 lbs or more. It requires that owners of these dogs must have them leashed at all times and kept in secure enclosures. Now, let's go to **\*HB 1451 by Thompson** relating to the licensing and regulation of commercial dog and cat breeders. (<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/82R/billtext/html/HB01451I.htm>) This bill is an HSUS national legislative agenda to stop all breeding of pets and does not address animal cruelty. This is not a commercial breeder bill as it regulates any breeder with more than 10 intact female dogs or cats. "You won't know what's in it until it passes" because the rules aren't written yet. Next we have the most devastating of them all with **\*HB 2116 by Coleman** relating to standards of care and confinement for dogs and cats. (<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/82R/billtext/html/HB02116I.htm>) Condenses 9 pages of HB 1451 down to 2 pages on regulating dog and cat breeders. Bans all dog tethering; requires kennel size 150' sq. ft. per dog over 6 months of age; dogs can't be left outside in extreme weather below 32 degrees or during heat advisory, hurricane, tornado alerts but it's "OK" for cats. Major change to Animal Cruelty Statute.

*continued on next page*

## Anti-Dog Legislation Bills (continued)

There also, is a small clause in this bill, making it illegal to have your dog attack another animal. *“(7) causes one animal to fight with another animal, if either animal is not a dog;”*

There it is folks. Hidden amongst the thousand words in this bill, is a fifteen word statement, which makes hog hunting with dogs ILLEGAL (animal abuse), as we ask our catch dogs to catch (fight) the hog. WOW! This is as serious as it gets. Are you just going to sit there and watch it happen? Can't say that you were not warned. The next bill is **\*SB 1517 by Van de Putte** relating to sterilization of dogs and cats. (<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/82R/billtext/html/SB015171.htm>) All dogs and cats over 6 months of age must be sterilized or purchase an annual \$50 Intact Animal Permit from local animal control authority. Impounded animals also. We as working dog owners, train and work our dogs for numerous years in order to determine whether the dog should be deemed breeding worthy. It would cost you \$800 dollars to raise, train and work, four puppies, for four years, to see if they have breeding potential. Then there is **\*SB 779 by Whitmire** relating to a central database containing information about certain persons who have been convicted of or received a grant of deferred adjudication for certain offenses involving animal cruelty. (<http://www.legis.state.tx.us/tlodocs/82R/billtext/html/SB007791.htm>) Creates a Texas “Pet Offender Registry” for Animal Cruelty (similar to a Sex Offender Registry for humans). This is an Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF) national campaign that seeks to change the legal status of animals from “property” to “personhood” in our legal system which would effectively end all animal use by humans for any reason. ALDF is an “animal rights” organization. Yep! There's a whole list of “petty” things that could get you charged for animal cruelty. If they come and inspect your kennels, as per HB2116 and HB 1451, and you have a day and a half of “poop” in your kennel, Whammo! Your on the Animal Abuse Registry, as kennels must be cleaned daily. If your kennel is fourteen by ten feet, which is 140 square feet. BAM! Your on the list, for all to see, that you are an Animal Abuser, because the kennels need to be 150 square feet. Oh, you better not get caught catching a hog! Now that I think about it, you probably won't be hunting with dogs anyway, because all your dogs will have already been Confiscated, sold for a profit, benefitting the ones that confiscated them. Allow me to link the next two together, due to their similarities. **\*HJR 44 by Larson** proposing a constitutional amendment to allow the voters of certain counties to adopt a charter that restructures and empowers the county government and that may allow the integration of the county government with certain other political subdivisions located wholly or partly in the county. (<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/82R/billtext/html/HJ000441.htm>) Would allow consolidation of certain counties and cities; all city animal ordinances such as pet limits and permits would apply countywide. **\*HB 431 by Larson** relating to the adoption of a county charter by Bexar County. (<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/82R/billtext/html/HB004311.htm>) Would allow consolidation of city and county services in Bexar County.

I think you can see the complications with this one. We live in the rural, county properties, for a reason, to get away from the municipality governments and ordinances. I know HB 431 applies to the San Antonio Area, but if it passes there, your county is next. One forum that I read has a thread titled, “My neighbor got fined for having dogs on chains, in the County”. Many people replying and posting up, complaining. There ya go. Good example why these two need to be opposed.

In closing, allow me to say that there are 48 anti-dog bills filed this session and we have tried to cover the more threatening bills, for you. Hopefully, we have explained the fact that it's the they's (antis) wanting to change things, not the we's. The number of active antis are many, with strong financial backing and they are actively communicating with their legislators, daily. Folks, this is not a situation where you can expect others to do the work for you. The only money one needs is for envelopes, postage stamps and convenient store fax charges. My local library charges .10 cents per copy and no charge for faxes. One can get a lot done with \$5.00 and there's nothing wrong with hand written letters. How long does it take to write, Dear Senator\_\_\_\_\_ or Representative\_\_\_\_\_, I strongly oppose HB ??? and would appreciate your support, on this matter. Sincerely, your Signature and address. Simple and to the point is fine, but you can get as detailed as you wish, and as you can see, the short version should not take over a minute of your time. These for and against letters get stacked up side by side and the tallest stack of letters, usually wins. The aids i have spoken with tell me that our stack of letters is very small. Only you can change this. Detailed information and individual contact information, of these bills, can be found on the Courtroom page in our Public Forum. One could write a book about HB 2116. If it passes, pretty well ALL of us will be Criminals. One of our members posted this, on our public Forum, pertaining to this bill and I'd like for you to read it, as follows.

“Punishable by up to 180 days in jail.....”

Lets see, if this bill passes, and we, caring owners of our dogs, fail to abide, unintentionally or maybe out of ignorance regarding laws such as this, and we weigh 150 to 220 lbs, three to four times the weight of our dog, we will get to be “legally” incarcerated and held in a, possibly 8 x8 cell, concrete slab or iron slab “bed”, not mentioning the elegant bathroom facilities. One meal a day, that would not sustain one of our dogs, daily, nor maybe, due to overcrowding and not enough personnel to maintain us, not seeing the light of day until we are released, “legally” mistreated. Of course, prior to this happening our dogs would “have had” a warm bed, possibly twice as much room, a well balanced diet, loving care, but now they will also be “caged” in a 4 x4 or maybe 5x5 enclosure.”

These words are well spoken and not to mention, Up to a \$2,000 fine for the first offense. Another thing to consider is the “Anger Factor”! We all have it and it makes people do strange things. When they come to your home to Confiscate your dogs and you retaliate by inflicting bodily harm, I promise you that you Will Not Win when the SWAT Team shows up. One can not take care of his family when he's sitting in a jail cell or worse yet, when they are no longer with us. This is not the time to get angry. NOW! Is the time to get angry and stand up and be heard, not after the fact.



## Texas Dog Hunters Association

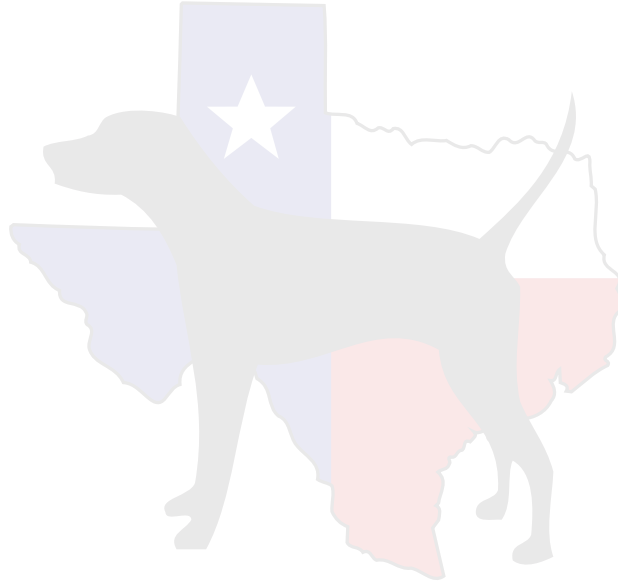
PO Box 234  
Waskom, TX 75692

### Suzie Mason

Unleashed Editor  
u2also@peoplepc.com

[www.tdha.org](http://www.tdha.org)

# TDHA Ballot Enclosed



## Dixie is Gone... Learn the Right & Moral Action

**Paul Teegardin**  
President of TDHA

**Douglas Mason**  
Past President of TDHA

***“Dixie” loses her life, but the fight goes on. Her case was lost in court, but in “giving” her life, opened the door for hunters to learn and better understand laws that can protect their dogs in the future. Maybe we could draft a “Dixie Law.” ~ S.Mason, Member/TDHA***

TDHA learned of this tragic event shortly after it happened. The loss of a faithful hunting dog is hard on the owner but to lose two great coon hounds in this fashion is a terrible thing. I wish I could say that this type of thing, shooting of hunting dogs, was uncommon but unfortunately that is not the case. It seems that many people in the state of Texas believe it is OK to shoot hunting dogs for trespassing, state laws says otherwise. This type of “crime” happens dozens of times in Texas every year. TDHA is working to spread the word about the law and is prepared to assist TDHA members with our legal fund if they find themselves in a similar situation. We are hoping for good cases to be won in court to set precedence for this type of case and also bring publicity to this problem.

TDHA gave Mr. Boyd access to the TDHA legal fund, as a active member if needed, and has supported his fight to be compensated for his loss. TDHA is interested in spreading the word that land owners need to do the right and moral thing when they see a hunting dog that has become separated from its handler and is simply “trespassing” on private property. Don’t shoot the dog, its not their fault.

*Paul Teegardin, President of TDHA*

I was contacted by Bob Boyd almost three years ago with a request for help and support. After finding out the situation TDHA offered to support and help him.

The public and land owners need to be educated to the fact that not all dogs are going to hurt them or their livestock. A well trained hunting dog will avoid livestock and if not caught in the act how can you say that it was bothering livestock? Most just jump the gun and shoot and ask questions later. This was one of those cases in my opinion, just an assumption that the dogs were going to do something.

TDHA is trying to educate property owners and the public, but the road is long and we need all the support from responsible people we can get. TDHA is here to protect and preserve the right to hunt with dogs.

*Douglas Mason, Past President of TDHA*

**TEXAS DOG HUNTERS ASSOCIATION 2011 ELECTION  
Ballot and Proxy Form**

**Candidates for Office of President**

Please place one (1) check in the box next to the candidate you are voting for as President. Vote for no more than one (1) candidate ONLY. The officer position of President is also a Director on the Board of Directors.

<u>President</u>	<u>Candidates</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Paul Teegardin</b>

**Candidates for Board of Directors**

Please check box under the "Director" column next to the candidate you are voting for. The candidate you vote for as President will hold one of the 6 Director positions.

<u>Director</u>	<u>Candidates</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Justin Hosea</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Matt Martinez</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Chris Williams</b>

**Candidates for Office of Vice President**

Please place one (1) check in the box next to the candidate you are voting for. Vote for no more than one (1) candidate ONLY.

<u>V.P.</u>	<u>Candidates</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Suzanne Mason</b>

**Candidates for Office of Secretary**

Please place one (1) check in the box next to the candidate you are voting for. Vote for no more than one (1) candidate ONLY.

<u>Secretary</u>	<u>Candidates</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Lyndsay Richardson</b>

**Proxy**

I will be unable to attend the annual meeting of the membership to be held at Cleburne, Texas on June 4, 2011. By checking this box and writing my full name along with my legal signature below, I am submitting my Ballot by Proxy. This Proxy is valid for one day only, June 4, 2011, at the annual meeting of the membership in Cleburne, Texas.

**Printed Name and Dated Signature**

Please print your full name, then sign and date below where indicated. If you will not be attending the annual meeting of the membership in Cleburne, Texas on June 4, 2011 and are submitting your Ballot by Proxy, please check the box above (under Proxy) and mail this completed and signed Ballot and Proxy to: TDHA, PO Box 972, Columbus, TX 78934.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Print Full Name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

## NOTICE OF TDHA ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP AND ELECTION OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

(Official Notice was posted on TDHA public forum on April ??, 2011)

### **When and Where?**

The annual meeting of the membership will be held at the West End Grill, 1629 W. Henderson Street, Cleburne, Texas on Saturday June 4th, 2011 beginning at 1:00PM. Those wishing to eat prior, need to arrive by 11:00 AM so as to finish lunch and proceed immediately with Meeting at 1:00PM. The purpose of this meeting is to report on the Association's current fiscal status report status of Association's projects and to hold election for Directors and Officers as per the Association's ByLaws. Election of Association's Directors and Officers is vitally important and we encourage all members to attend.

### **Who is eligible to vote for Directors and Officers?**

In order to be eligible to vote in the election you must be a Member of TDHA at least 30 days prior to the election with your membership dues paid in full. If you are a member on or before May 4th, 2011 then you will be eligible to vote.

### **How does the election process work?**

Election of Directors and Officers shall be by popular vote of the membership of the Association present at the annual meeting of the membership by ballot or, if you are unable to be physically present at the meeting, by mailing your ballot/proxy form to TDHA. Members who attend the meeting will be checked against the membership list as of May 4th, 2011 to be sure that you were a member on or before that date(30 days prior to election) to ensure your eligibility to vote. Ballots with Proxy Forms mailed in by those who are unable to attend the meeting will be checked against the May 4th,2011 membership list to ensure eligibility to vote. Those ballots submitted at the meeting will be counted along with the mailed in Ballot with Proxy Forms to determine the results of the election of directors and Officers.

### **If I am unable to be physically present at the meeting, how do I vote?**

As mentioned above, by mailing in your ballot and proxy form. Complete ballot, check off box under the "Proxy" section of the form, print name, sign and date ballot. Please mail the Original signed ballot with the "Proxy" box checked to TDHA, P.O. Box 972, Columbus, Texas, 78934. Your ballot and proxy form must be received at this address no later than May 30th, 2011. We recommend that you at least mail your ballot 3 DAYS PRIOR TO MAY 30th, 2011 to be sure that it is received in a timely manner. Please make sure you print your name clearly on the ballot so that your name can be checked against the membership list, also to sign and date and to check off the box in "Proxy" section of the form or your ballot will not be valid.

### **What is a Proxy and why do I need to check that box if I am mailing my ballot?**

The Association's By Laws require the election of Directors and Officers to be conducted at the annual meeting of the membership by a popular vote of the members present or by Proxy. The Proxy allows for your ballot to be submitted AS IF YOU WERE PHYSICALLY PRESENT AT THE MEETING. The Association's By Laws require a 10% Quorum (10 percent of the total number of members whether in person or by proxy) be present at the meeting for the meeting election to be valid. The 10% Quorum can be met by counting those members present and those that mail in a Proxy.

NOTE: IN THE EVENT THAT A CANDIDATE OR CANDIDATES GO UNCHALLENGED IN THEIR SPECIFIC POSITION IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT ALL VOTE FOR THEIR CANDIDATE AS WE HAVE A "VOTING QUORUM" THAT HAS TO BE MET.

### **Where do I get the Ballot and Proxy Form?**

The Ballot and Proxy Form will be enclosed in our "Unleashed" Newsletter to be mailed on April 29th or no later than May 1st, 2011. Make sure, once again, that you mark the "Proxy" box if you will NOT BE ATTENDING THE MEETING. Mail to: TDHA, P.O. Box 972, Columbus, Texas 78934.

### **What happens if I am not sure I will be able to attend the meeting?**

As mentioned above, please mail in your Ballot and Proxy Form. If you are able to attend the meeting, the mailed in ballot and Proxy will be returned to you at the meeting to be submitted by you in Person.

We encourage all members to attend the annual meeting of the membership on June the 4th, 2011. Meeting will begin sharply at 1:00PM. This meeting is a great opportunity for members to meet and for issues of concern to us to be discussed. Mail in your ballot or proxy if you feel you will not be able to make this meeting. Directors and Officers of this Association are determined by YOU, the membership, your participation in the election process is vital to TDHA.