

By: White

H.B. No. 2833

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the classification and care of working dogs.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. DEFINITION. In this Act a "working dog" means:

(1) A dog used primarily for the purpose of driving, tending, locating, working, or protecting stock to include domestic and feral stock, swine and exotics;

(2) A dog used for police, military, substance detection, protection, search, rescue or recovery purposes;

(3) A dog used as a service, assistance or therapy animal;

(4) A dog used to locate, retrieve, or capture an animal, or used in the recovery of wounded or dead animals;

(5) A dog that is in training for any of the above purposes;

(6) The definition does not rely upon where the dog lives, or its breed, but its primary use;

SECTION 2. A dog that is defined as a "working dog" is not considered a pet and will be exempt from laws intended to apply to pets.

(2) A working dog will not be subject to laws:

(a) Requiring mandatory spay or neuter;

(b) Restricting or requiring permits for the number of animals an owner may possess, regardless of reproductive status;

1 (c) Restricting how the dog may be housed;

2 (d) Requiring additional insurance due to weight, breed,  
3 sex, or reproductive status of the dog;

4 (e) Restricting breeds that may be kept by the owner.

5 SECTION 3. Section 42.09, Penal Code applies to the care of  
6 working dogs.

7 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.