

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 604

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON COUNTY AFFAIRS

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Hearing Date: March 25, 2021 10:30 AM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

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Evelyn Shoemaket

Self

Midland, TX

I wholeheartedly Support this Bill. It will make it much easier to reunite lost pets with their homes

Steve Sturtz

Self

San Angelo, TX

I am support of this bill and feel it is necessary in controlling population of companion animals along with helping to identify owners

joella collier

self

flower mound, TX

Please pass this bill to help return lost dogs to their owners.

Amber Ross

Self

Longview, TX

Please vote yes for HB604

abigail placke

Dallas Fort Worth Labrador Retriever Club

weatherford, TX

We support this bill.

Debra Allen

self retired

Royse City, TX

Please pass this bill. I thought it was already a requirement because it would result in quickly reuniting pets with their owners and save the shelters lots of money on feed etc.

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Christen Richter  
myself  
HOUSTON, TX

I support this bill and hope that you will vote for this.

Rosanna Brown, Ms.  
Self  
Benbrook, TX

Please, kindly vote in favor of HB 604 on March 25, 2021, to require animal shelters, rescues, and related organizations to scan for microchips when they take possession of an animal. If they find that an animal is 'chipped', they should also be required to follow-up by calling the microchip manufacturer's toll free number, and make every effort to reunite the animal with its owner.

If your personal pet were microchipped and became lost, chances are you would want to be reunited with your companion. Lost pets oftentimes lose their collars and tags.  
~Thank you!

Alison Giacomia  
Self  
Benbrook, TX

In favor

Claudia Leffler, Ms  
Self  
Houston, TX

I strongly support this bill. I have heard horror stories of animals accidentally getting out of their containment area and ending up in a shelter being miss described. These owners, who have made the responsible and financial commitment to microchip their beloved pets, deserve to have the shelters and rescue organizations take the time to scan their take-ins. Often pets can be lost due to disasters experienced by the owners and not being able to find their pet(s) adds to the horror of their tragedy.  
Thank you, Claudia Leffler

Cheryl Moehling  
Self  
Ft worth, TX

All animals should be scanned regardless of where they are found.

John Stancoff  
Self  
Ft Worth, TX

Save our pets please. If one of my dogs was adopted or euthanized at a shelter I would be devastated. They are my family.

Helen Gorman

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self/volunteer with Texas Great Pyreneese Rescue

Fort Worth, TX

Please consider requiring ALL SHELTERS AND RESCUE GROUPS to scan all animals for identifying microchips. It's sad to think that not all agencies are the same and we should never leave anything to assumptions. Ensuring that there is a legal requirement to scan, identify, and potentially reunite pets with their owners is an act of professionalism and compassion that defines a caring Texans.

Suzanne Marple, Mrs.

Myself - a concerned pet owner.

FORT WORTH, TX

It only takes a second! Why on earth wouldn't you check? An owner could be found & the life of a beloved pet could be saved! Please, PASS this!

Janis Birchall, MD

Self--Birchbay Kennel- Norwich Terrier Breeder & Owner

Wimberley, TX

I strongly support HB604 to check for microchips in all animals placed in all rescue facilities in Texas- this greatly increases chances that the animal can be returned to a rightful owner and provides access to health history, vaccinations, age etc. which will result in the proper care and/or placement of the dog. by all involved.

Brenda Callaway

Self

Seagoville, TX

In favor

Jennifer Herr

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Common sense for all animal shelters to check for a microchip.

Tammi Downum

Self

Plano, TX

Shelters should be required to scan animal prior to putting up for adoption.

Kelly Crown

Self, Bookkeeper

Wills Point, TX

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Please vote in favor of this bill

Jerry Hougen

Me

Farmers Branch, TX

This should be required whenever a pet is picked up

David McClellan

Self

Benbrook, TX

In Favor. / Relating to a microchip scan of animals in the custody of an animal shelter or releasing agency, including an animal rescue organization.

Sarah Armour

Self

Benbrook, TX

Please vote in favor of this bill! This is extremely important to people who see their pets as members of their family.

jim gleason

MyndVR

lucas, TX

There's a lot of dog that's going on, because rescues are not required to try and contact the owner of dogs placed with them, they enter actually sell the dogs, they do not give them away for free. They have a lot of motivation to receive stolen dogs

Maura Phelan

Self, dog rescuer and dog fancier

MANOR, TX

This will get animals returned to owners and reduce the number of animals in shelters or killed.

JoAnn Reinolds

self

ROYSE CITY, TX

Please vote for this bill to help get pets home to their owners quickly.

Pamela Noll

Self

Bastrop, TX

I support HB 604 by Noble for the following reasons: To help ensure animals are correctly identified and rightful owners are

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contacted for safe and humane disposition thereof, including return to owners. There is an initial cost of implantation of the micro-chip to the breeder or owner, and in some cases, an annual fee paid to a chip database. This expense burden is not taken lightly, and there is the expectation that a shelter or other agency that comes into possession of a micro-chipped animal will make all effort to contact the person associated with the number on that micro-chip. HB 604 is supported because passage will let breeders and owners know that Texas' elected officials care about their citizens and their pets.

Cheralyn Ballantyne

self - IT, print and data management

Wylie, TX

Reuniting a lost, stolen, temporarily misplaced animal to its owner is the ultimate goal.

For the animal parent a lost family pet is heart breaking. Countless sleepless night, endless hours of driving around and searching, posting signs, numerous trips to shelters, rescues, police departments, fire stations, feed stores, asking have you seen my dogs?

The rescue organizations are in place to rescue, shelters are in place to provide shelter, both should be a safe place for lost animals. HB604 is another extension of a shelters or rescues safe harbor. Just scan the animal for a microchip. Give the peace of mind to the owners looking for their lost family member a little hope that others are helping to reunite the lost animal, who is also just trying to get back home. The process is simply, the results are gratifying for all, the cost are negligible. Let's imagine the only obstacle is the cost of a scanner. Scanners can be purchased starting at \$50 and up. What is the cost to house, feed, care for an animal? Sometime there is unnecessary surgery performed, at what cost? And at times unnecessary shots administer to an animal that is not scanned, at what cost? What is the cost to house, feed, at times provide unnecessary medical treatment and at times pay a transporter to move the animals? Just one of those examples is much more costly than the cost of a scanner. Just scan, make a call, do what is right in a world that needs a little comfort of home for humans and animals alike.

Just scan and pass HB 604.

In support of Grizzly, Spot and my sister. My sister and I go to lunch weekly. Every week she cried over lunch, she was completely exhausted searching day and night, frustrated over the lack of support in searching for her 2 dogs. One and half years later a phone call came in. Dogs were found alive but not well.

I was driving out to her house to meet her to see what I could do...I never saw my sister so hell bent on the road, she flew past me on a small country road and didn't even notice me waving my arms. So focused, so determined to get her dogs back home. She drove 8 hours to get to her dogs in a neighboring state. Both were microchip, neither scanned. Just scan and pass HB 604 so others do not have to endure this anguish.

Maryanne Knipe

Self

Garland, TX

This bill will save so many people heartbreak when looking for their lost pets.

Becky Williams

Self

Heath, TX

HB604 by Williams

Relating to microchip scan of animals - this issue has impacted a personal friend and it's heartbreaking to know that so many pet owners have this experience every day when it would take just passing this bill get legislation in place to reduce the pain and suffering of animals and their owners. A responsible pet owner takes the steps necessary to get their pet returned by placing the microchip in place and now they need your help. Please vote for HB604. Thank you

Paige Green

Self

Benbrook, TX

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In favor

RAYMOND DEBLASI

SELF

Wylie, TX

I support Congresswoman Nobles comments

Bette Williams-Barber

Self, occupation CPA, Dog owner and breeder for many years

Austin, TX

As an avid dog lover, owner, and retired breeder, I ask this committee's support of this bill. It seems a small step but a positive step in being able to reunite a lost dog with its family.

Duncan Ballantyne

self, business owner

Wylie, TX

I fully support this bill to scan all animals that are taken in by a shelter or rescue. The minimal cost of a scanner is nothing compared to the distress and heartache of a family that has lost an animal to a shelter or rescue that may adopt out, sell, or even euthanize an animal without even giving the family a chance to get the animal back by means of a simple wave of a hand-held scanner. I've seen firsthand the anguish cause to my sister-in-law when her two dogs were passed from 'rescue' to 'rescue' eventually ending up over 8 hours away and for sale on a website. This is inexcusable. Please make scanning law through HB604 and stop this needless anguish to families and their animals..

Thomas Stock

DOG OWNERS

GARLAND, TX

PASS THE BILL

Brock Shriver

Self

Dallas, TX

I strongly support this bill and urge the state legislature to pass it. Our pets are family members and everything we can do to reunite them with their family should be done. There is no excuse for scanning for microchips to NOT already be the law.

Vickie Thompson

Self

Plano, TX

Please pass HB 604 to require animal rescues and shelters to scan lost and stray pets for microchips and help reunite them with their owners. As a pet owner, I've had peace of mind knowing that my little pets are chipped. HB 604 was brought to my attention that reuniting with my pet may not be as easy as I thought.

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There are so many "right" reasons to pass this and it would alleviate so much heartache and anguish of not knowing where your pet is and if they are being taken care of. The cost of providing scanners would be a minimal expense and could be recouped fairly easy if you take into consideration the care the pet may need on arrival, food, unnecessary shots and if they would require an extended stay, so please pass HB 604.

The AKC also supports this bill <https://www.akc.org/legislative-alerts/ask-texas-committee-support-bill-require-shelters-scan-animals-microchips/>

Thank you!  
Vickie Thompson

Deborah Lindley

Self

Garland, TX

Please help these dogs

Linda C Willenborg, Mrs.

Self; Retired

Addison, TX

Since my husband died in 2017, my two dogs have been my constant companions, friends, and have helped me from being so lonely. I have always taken care of my dogs and have had both of them microchipped. I would hope that if for some reason they became lost, I would be able to get them back with the help of a vet office, shelter, etc. by scanning to see if they had been microchipped. Please consider this bill for requiring lost dogs to be scanned to see about locating the true owners. Those owners who want to provide this extra caution of having their dogs microchipped should be able to count on anyone who finds them to assist with trying to locate the owner by scanning for microchips.

Dawn Riell

American Kennel Club

Hudson Oaks, TX

I am greatly in favor of requiring animal shelters to scan animals in custody for microchips to ensure the speedy return to the respective owners.

Cathy Gleason, Principal Facilitator Animal ID/Scan

All TX residents that microchip their pets!

Lucas, TX

Texas statewide law to Scan for microchips in dogs/cats upon intake is of vital importance! Microchips are ID of choice for pet owners and mandated by city ordinances to the tune of 7 million plus of the population in TX. A simple process to pass a Universal Scanner over the dog/cat and make the call to the data company! ID of owned animals serves for quick return, results in saving shelter resources and space for the homeless! Rescues, finders, or volunteers of, further benefit by allocating their donations for truly unwanted animals! This bill is a public relations WIN and tremendous need for the citizens of Texas! The assumption that animal entities are scanning for microchip ID upon intake or Scanning at all, is a misconception!

Michelle Lingan

self

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Cypress, TX

Please consider passing this bill. All of my pets are microchipped, but for health reasons two of them are not able to wear collars. If there was an accident and they got lost, their microchip would be the only way to identify me as their owner. There have been pets that were microchipped that were never scanned and placed in to new homes and then found by their actual owners. This has lead to legal battles over ownership that no one should have to go through. If the pets had been scanned by the shelters and rescue groups, they would have been able to be reunited with their owners. Pets are legally property in this State, and as such, everything should be done to return said property to the rightful owners. It doesn't take much time to scan an animal, and there is no reason to not scan an animal unless it is being kept from it's rightful owner on purpose (which is stealing). Please pass this bill so that more animals make it home again.

Jona Milner

Self

Little elm, TX

Hb 604 noble

Pleas. Vote yes for this bill requiring checking for microchip on any pet coming into any shelter. These pets are our property and our family and this is the minimal thing that should be done checking for the microchip and to contact that person or the vet that put it in. Thank you

Cynthia Wood

Self

Lewisville, TX

The number of animals who are stolen has grown exponentially during this past year if there had been a mandatory scan requirement these could have been returned to their owners once found. Animals no matter if they are pets or working or service animals we as owners are emotional attached to these animals as they are part of our daily lives and when they are lost or stolen as owners we are distressed and frantically trying to locate our family member no matter that they are on 4 legs. If we mandate the that animal is is chipped why would we not mandate that the animal be scanned by the vet, rescue or pound? The only reason to mandate a chip is if that technology is used. Scanning MUST be done on intake so these animals can be reunited with their family. Please please vote to mandate the scan.

Karl Goellner

Self

Benbrook, TX

Please vote in favor of this bill. To not scan the animals would be ridiculous.

Patricia Currie

Doberman Rescue of North Texas

Trophy Club, TX

This desperately needs to be passed.

AMBER HRADEK

Me

Benbrook, TX

Im In favor of this bill

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Christina Schatzman  
Resident  
FORT WORTH, TX

Please support the required scanning of animals. This technology goes a long way to reuniting animals and owners and keeping the costs of animal control and shelters down while creating little burden on the shelters and rescue organizations. Thank you!

Cheryl Combs Young  
Self  
Pearland, TX

When i was out of town my cat was caught in a trap and was transported to the animal shelter. There were 3 opportunities for my cat to have been scanned for the chip he had which was never performed by the shelter. The first time was when the animal control officer had my cat in the trap. 2nd was when my cat was transferred to a gage and the 3rd missed opportunity was before he was euthanized. The same staff person who oversaw processing my cat into the shelter on Tuesday was the Staff person who decided to euthanize the cat with out consulting the senior staff member. She killed my cat on the following Saturday. When she called me to tell me she had just Euthanized my cat I was quite shocked because my cat had been Chipped, tattooed and Neutered. He was obviously not feral or stray. I said I never received a call telling me he had been captured. She said they did not scan my cat until after he was dead. I ask how she was now calling me? She said because my information was registered with the chip. My cat was wrongfully killed. He had been Chipped, registered, tattooed in the ear and neutered.

This incident went Viral and stirred change in the town I live in and since this tragic incident I have been told the City Council, Chief of Police and the Shelter have had new scanners donated for up-close as well as through the bars to reach the animal who is scarred and fighting. These same council members have implemented rules such as All Animals must be checked by no less than 2 different staff persons before moving to the next phase of impound. And they must check again should they decide to Euthanize.

I was very upset as I loved my cat and had done my part to protect my pets. I have them chipped and registered. I feel all impound facilities handling animals should have proper microchip readers and it must be mandatory and written into Law to be use more than once before making the decision the animal is not chipped.

Allison Hardy  
Self  
Benbrook, TX

Dear Committee please vote "In Favor" of this bill, which will require shelters to scan all animals for microchips.

Jane Adams  
self  
Austin, TX

I urge you to support this bill. Microchips are invaluable in identifying and contacting owners of lost pets.