

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 1083

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON COUNTY AFFAIRS

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Hearing Date: April 20, 2021 10:30 AM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

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Lexi Moore

Self

Dallas, TX

There needs to be a grace period if my dog gets let out or stolen and my rights get terminated before I have a chance to recover my dog. This is unfair and an abuse of my ownership rights. Especially if a pet is chipped.

Beverly Hyden

SELF

Spring, TX

OPPOSE HB1083

THIS BILL NEEDS TO BE OPPOSED WITHOUT FAIL! AS MUCH AS OUR DOG IS A PART OF OUR FAMILY, IT IS SOMETIMES NECESSARY TO LEAVE HIM IN THE CARE OF PET SITTER OR FACILITY. I AM A FULLY RESPONSIBLE PET OWNER AND WOULD BE DEVASTED IF I LOST HIM BECAUSE HE ACCIDENTALLY GOT OUT. IF HE SHOULD GET OUT OR AWAY FROM THE CAREGIVER, I WOULD NEED TO KNOW THAT MY RIGHTS WOULD NOT BE TERMINATED IN ANY WAY. I AM ONE THOUSAND PERCENT OPPOSED TO THIS BILL AND HOPE YOU WILL NOT SUPPORT IT IN ANY WAY.

Frances Powrie

Self - Retired Teacher

Carrollton, TX

I encourage this committee and all Representatives to vote NO on this bill to immediately terminate ownership of any animal in any shelter. There should be a mandatory holding period so that animals could be reclaimed. So many pets now have microchips making it very easy to contact most owners. We have owned both dogs and cats for many years and only one has ever gotten out of our yard. We quickly located him in our local animal shelter. This was before the days of microchipping. Our animals are now chipped and all of my friends animals are as well. It is so easy for accidental escapes usually not with the owner but perhaps they are out of town and have a pet sitter, home groomer or child coming home that accidentally lets the dog or cat out. Some animals respond to a "come" or "here" command if it is the owner. If not, they might be hard to catch. We have successfully helped neighbors who's dogs dig under their fence to escape and run around. We have also not been able to catch them sometimes. Responsible pet ownership and education is more important than ever these days and should be promoted instead of just immediately terminating the ownership rights. Thank you for your consideration.

JoAnn Reinolds

self/retired teacher

ROYSE CITY, TX

Please do not pass this bill; it violates the owner's rights and is a detriment to responsible pet ownership and the businesses involved in taking care of them.

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Ragni Jantzen  
Self Retired  
Georgetown, TX

I respectfully ask that this bill be voted, "No." Every animal shelter should have a minimum wait-period for holding animals. I shudder to think that my owner's rights could be terminated immediately if one of my two dachshunds were to get loose inadvertently. It's never happened in my 38 years of owning a dog but there's always a first time. Please don't punish every responsible pet owner because there are a few irresponsible "bad actors" out there. Thank you.

Elaine Long  
E-Rescue supporter and donor  
Houston, TX

Oppose HB1083  
This is absolutely unacceptable to pet owners and pets. How would you feel if this was your pet and family member! NO WAY for this to be legalized.

Judy Baca, President/director  
E-rescue Houston, Inc.  
Spring Branch, TX

If HB 1083 is allowed to pass then rightful owners would have no time to find their pet if lost. Animals get out even if we are careful. Families should not lose their pets over this. This is also not fair to an animals who is bonded with their family. This is a horrible bill that should not be allowed to pass. People should have time to find their pets.

PAULA MCSWAIN  
Paula McSwain  
ROCKWALL, TX

I am appalled that this is even being considered!

Elizabeth Crook  
Self-notary signing agent  
Northlake, TX

Please do not vote to terminate my rights as an animal owner. Sometimes animals escape and end up in a shelter temporarily. All my animals are microchipped and would find their way home to me.

Vicki Carper  
Self  
San Antonio, TX

I am a dog and cat owner please don't vote for this bill. Sometimes a pet may get out or an accident happens and this does not terminate my ownership of my pet .

Jennifer Stastny

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Self

Victoria, TX

I wish to express my opinion on HB 1083 relating to the termination of ownership interest in an animal impounded by an animal shelter. My dogs are all microchipped and over the years, I have gone to great lengths to ensure my pets are never off my property or out of my home without me present and on leash. I consider myself a responsible pet owner and the likelihood of one of my dogs being in an animal shelter, barring any unforeseen circumstances, is very unlikely. However, accidents literally can and do happen. I have read of and heard horror stories of people involved in automobile accidents and their pets escaping the accident scene, meter readers or others opening gates and allowing pets to escape backyards, or pets escaping from pet sitters/walkers while the owners are away and the struggles these people had to reclaim their pets. I believe the worst I have heard was the case of a gentleman who was involved in an auto accident and his dog, who was with him in the vehicle at the time of the accident, was given over to animal control and essentially SOLD (fee charged to adopter) while the gentleman was in the hospital and in a coma. Thankfully, the gentleman recovered, but his recovery was greatly damped due to the loss of his beloved pet. Many people go to great lengths to ensure the safety and security of their pets and regard them as family members. It would be a travesty to hamper or eliminate their ability to regain their family member through the passing of this bill.

Cara Mierl

self-employed

Austin, TX

I do not give up my right to ownership of my pet if the pet should accidentally get loose or if someone were to steal my pet. What would keep an animal shelter from taking all the pets it wants and selling them. Please represent me as an 8th generation Texan and a member of the DRT by protecting my pets as well as anything else I own.

MARTIN KRALIK

PRESIDENT - LONE STAR FOX TERRIER CLUB & GOVT RELATIONS DIR. - RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERS ALLIANCE

DALLAS, TX

**OPPOSE HB1083: BAD Bill for Texas Animal Owners and Texas Pet Businesses!  
DANGEROUS DISREGARD of TEXAS PROPERTY RIGHTS - THE GOVERNMENT CAN TERMINATE OWNERSHIP OF YOUR DOG (& other pets) IN NO TIME.**

This is a dangerous bill regarding loss of ownership of our dogs/pets. This proposed law would allow the government to TERMINATE my ownership rights in my dogs or other animals if they wind up in animal control. After the hold period which can be hours or NO time at all, my ownership rights in my animals are FOREVER TERMINATED--GONE!!!

**OWNERSHIP RIGHTS CAN BE TERMINATED IN NO TIME-IMMEDIATELY—NO State Mandated Hold Period!!**  
Since there is NO hold period defined in state law, local governments can set a hold period for an impounded animal for a few hours or NO time. And, any local government that currently has a hold period can at any time change their laws so that I lose ownership rights in my animals IMMEDIATELY upon the animal entering the pound or possession of the government. Stating a hold period in state law will NOT fix this bill because valuable property rights will be forever TERMINATED without any due process in the taking.

Many local governments do not have shelters and they use private shelters or rescue organizations to take dogs and cats. This bill IMMEDIATELY TERMINATES OWNERSHIP upon transfer to a rescue organization The same is true for “adoption.” Absent a hold period, the city/county could IMMEDIATELY transfer the animal to someone else for “adoption” and that would IMMEDIATELY TERMINATE my owner’s rights.  
**TEXANS LOVE OUR DOGS AND THIS IS WRONG!**

**BAD BILL for TEXAS PET BUSINESSES & PET PROFESSIONALS!**

Veterinarians, pet sitters, kennels, doggy daycare facilities, groomers, dog walkers, handlers, and transporters all have possession

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of our dogs (& other pets) and can accidentally lose an animal. You could entrust your dog to one of these professionals, go on a weekend trip and come back to find out your dog was lost and now you **DO NOT OWN YOUR DOG ANY LONGER!** LIABILITY SKYROCKETS and so will insurance rates. **IMAGINE THIS CONVERSATION--**Pet Business: I am sorry we lost your dog, but I am even more sorry because now you don't own your dog!

**WHO BENEFITS FORM THIS BAD BILL-**Rescue organizations get dogs/cats from animal control which is good. They put Fido or Fluffy on their website for "adoption." Then comes along a pesky OWNER who wants Fido or Fluffy back. Sounds like a win-win. Give Fido or Fluffy back to the owner and the rescue group can save a dog or cat that really does need a home. While logical to most people, it is a **BOTHER & INCONVENIENCE** to some rescue groups. Some rescues happily return owned pets. But some figure that you are a bad owner if your animal escapes and flatly **REFUSE** to return the animal. **HB1083 TERMINATES TEXAS OWNERS' RIGHTS** for the **CONVENIENCE** of some rescue groups that do **NOT** even have to be a legitimate incorporated non-profit!

**SAY NO to HB1083 - BAD FOR TEXAS ANIMAL OWNERS/BUSINESS!**

Bridget Flood

Self

Granite shoals, TX

I urge you to consider what this means. My dog, who is microchipped and with me at all times, could escape me somehow and is scooped up by animal control. He's no longer my dog, if the shelter so chooses. I get zero chance to reclaim my pet.

That's just my story. What about yours? Your very own mans best friend. Got out your open gate and taken away from you just like that. No chance to reclaim, not even 24 hours.

Now your dog has a new home and escapes to find you is picked up by animal control and redistributed again. And again. And again. And again.

There is no end. Only heartbreak.

Nora Hodges

Self

Austin, TX

**OPPOSE**

Tom Lundberg

Myself

Fruitvale, TX

I oppose HB1083!

This bill terminates the right to ownership. Basically giving animal control a license to steal.

Dana Dorsey

Self

New Braunfels, TX

**OPPOSE HB1083.** I want my pup back if she is ever lost. I want to retain ownership and help get her home.

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Cecil Horton

Self

Tarpley, TX

I'm strongly against the termination of my rights of ownership of my dogs if they get loose. If I find them loose I look for hours to find them. And if they are found I want the right to pick them up and bring them home. I'll be an animal lover and a responsible pet owner. No one should be able to just terminate my rights of my pets. Vote no on HB 1083

Roger Fuller

Self

Paige, TX

Texas House Bill 1083 seeks to provide for the quick termination of ownership rights in animals that are impounded by an animal shelter. While well intentioned to protect neglected and abused animals, animals do escape from yards despite the best and reasonable efforts of owners. Immediately terminating ownership where well meaning, concerned owners is concerned is a step too far. There should be a reasonable waiting period.

PAT JORDAN

LONE STAR FOX TERRIER CLUB - BOARD OF DIRECTORS & SHOW CHAIRMAN

DALLAS, TX

**OPPOSE HB1083: BAD Bill for Texas Animal Owners & Texas Pet Businesses!**

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**OWNERSHIP RIGHTS TERMINATED IN NO TIME-IMMEDIATELY—NO State Mandated Hold Period!!**

Since there is **NO** hold period defined in state law, local governments can set a hold period for an impounded animal for a few hours or **NO** time. And, any local government that currently has a hold period can at any time change their laws so that I lose ownership rights in my animals **IMMEDIATELY** upon the animal entering the pound or possession of the government. Stating a hold period in state law will **NOT** fix this bill because valuable property rights will be forever **TERMINATED** without any due process in the taking.

Many local governments do not have shelters so they use private shelters or rescue organizations to take dogs and cats. This bill **IMMEDIATELY TERMINATES OWNERSHIP** upon transfer to a rescue organization. The same is true for "adoption." Absent a hold period, the city/county could **IMMEDIATELY** transfer the animal to someone else for "adoption" which would also **IMMEDIATELY TERMINATE** my owner's rights.

**MANY TIMES THIS INCLUDES OUR MOST PRIZED POSSESSION! THIS IS WRONG!**

**BAD BILL for TEXAS PET BUSINESSES & PET PROFESSIONALS!**

Veterinarians, pet sitters, kennels, doggy daycare facilities, groomers, dog walkers, handlers, and transporters all have possession of our dogs (& other pets) and can accidentally lose an animal. You could entrust your dog to one of these professionals, go on a weekend trip and come back to find out your dog was lost and now you **DO NOT OWN YOUR DOG ANY LONGER!** **LIABILITY SKYROCKETS** and so will insurance rates. **IMAGINE THIS CONVERSATION--Pet Business: I am sorry we lost your dog, but I am even more sorry because now you don't own your dog!**

**WHO BENEFITS FROM THIS BAD BILL--Rescue organizations get dogs/cats from animal control which is good. They put Fido or Fluffy on their website for "adoption." Then comes along a pesky OWNER who wants Fido or Fluffy back. Sounds like a**

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win-win. Give Fido or Fluffy back to the owner and the rescue group can save a dog or cat that really does need a home. While logical to most people, it is a BOTHER & INCONVENIENCE to some rescue groups. Some rescues happily return owned pets. But some figure that you are a bad owner if your animal escapes and flatly REFUSE to return the animal. HB1083 TERMINATES TEXAS OWNERS' RIGHTS for the CONVENIENCE of some rescue groups that do NOT even have to be a legitimate incorporated non-profit!

SAY NO to HB1083 - BAD FOR TEXAS OWNERS/BUSINESS!

Dana Lodge  
Self  
Shady Shores, TX

I oppose this bill. Unusual circumstances do happen from time to time and a loving home should not lose their cherish pet as a result.

Jennifer Sellers  
Dog crossposter  
Richardson, TX

Please vote against HB 1083 tomorrow. It is so unfair to both dog owners and especially the dogs. They do need time to claim their lost animals. Often people are out of town and someone is taking care of their pet. I don't understand the reason for this bill at all. It's cruel and unfair and will cause a lot of pain.

Pat Dody  
Keller Williams Real Estate  
The Woodlands, TX

This bill is totally not right or fair to an owner of any path that has been impounded

STEVE KRALIK  
SELF  
HASLET, TX

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SAY NO to HB1083 - BAD FOR TEXAS OWNERS/BUSINESS!

Robert Ortiz

Compass Litigation

Houston, TX

#### OPPOSE HB 1083

This bill would create a state law that terminates rights in dogs and other pets if they accidentally get out and end up in a local shelter for a brief period. I am very opposed to this. It is unfair to rip away someone's rights for a simple mistake that anyone could make considering that is very hard to find a lost pet, especially a dog that can roam, be picked up by someone and moved, or put in any number of shelters that may or may not let you even go in and look for your animal during Covid. And, there are dozens of websites for lost dogs and cats. There is no central location for the lost animal to be brought, and no central website to find them. A short time to find them, like 72 hours, is not fair. Rescue organizations should not have superior rights to the legal owners of dogs and other pets so that they can conveniently transfer dogs to others. If a dog or cat has a home, that's where they belong. They are family and this bill would rip apart families. Most families have a dog or cat, or both, so a lot of Texas citizens stand to lose their pets. Bad bill for Texas.

Richard Farleigh, Dr.

Self, Physician and dog owner

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill which is an egregious deprivation of the rights of dog owners to be notified and given the opportunity to pick up their dogs in the event the dogs are taken by animal control if they escape from the owner. To immediately deprive the rightful owner from retaining the ownership of their dog in such event would be an illegal taking of private property and a cruel separation of an animal from its loving owner

Susanne Walters

Myself, and all pet owners in Texas.

Kempner, TX

I believe HB 1083 represents a radical step toward ending an individual’s ownership rights in cases where dogs accidentally get out of their owner’s possession, or the possession of someone entrusted to their care, including pet sitters, boarding kennels, dog day cares, groomers, and veterinarians. The lack of mandated, minimum holding periods would effectively provide shelters with

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the power to automatically terminate an individual's ownership rights in their animals without giving owners an appropriate amount of time to reclaim their animal.

Jennifer Elsner

Self - project manager

Cypress, TX

I strongly oppose this legislation to remove the minimum holding time for a pet impounded in a Texas shelter. This does not allow an owner time to locate their dog and reclaim it. As a dog owner this is not OK! If my dog escapes my yard due to a repairman or the innocence of a child my rights as the dog's owner are removed.

Michael Graves

self, retired computer engineer, retired math, computer science teacher

Leander, TX

There needs to be a reasonable amount of time (ten days or longer) for owners to find and retrieve their pets. Allowing animal "rights" groups to set that time is a license to steal animals.

Katherine Cavuoti, Mrs

Self

Abilene, TX

Please, as the conscientious owner of several pet dogs, some are show dogs, I respectfully request that you vote NO on the early termination of owner's rights. Should any of my dogs become separated from me, I would need time as would any pet owner, to get there and retrieve them. I have had them all since they were babies. They are microchipped and recorded with AKC as my dogs but if this law passes, that means nothing. Anyone could claim my Champion dogs including someone who would mistreat or even kill them.

Tonya Downs

Myself. French bulldog club

Kirbyville, TX

I decline this bill. My animals are just that and my ownership should not be terminated at any time.  
Please decline this bill.

Dena Drago

Self

Alvin, TX

Regarding HB1083: please consider voting against this bill. Most pet owners consider their pet a part of the family and work hard to keep their pet safe. Unfortunately, there are times that a pet may inadvertently get loose. They may be being cared for by someone other than the owner, -kennel, pet sitter, groomer, veterinarian-or they may go out of a gate that the repairman left open or get excited when someone is at the door and run out. It is devastating to lose a pet and owners often go to extraordinary means to find them. A pet's best interest is usually to be with its family. The family should be given time to locate their missing family member. If animal control is allowed to place the pet in a new home immediately, the pet and its owner lose a lifetime bond. There must be a waiting period to allow the pet to be found.

Diana Clyburn

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Self

North Richland Hills, TX

There is no rational reason I can come up with to terminate a pet owner's right to claim their animal back should they accidentally get lose or be stolen and wind up in a shelter. We OWN these animals, the law sees them as our property and we should be allowed to have some time to find them. Many times, owners are actively looking for their pet. Why would you deny them the chance to get them back? This is truly terrifying for responsible pet owners. It's like our city/state is working against us. God forbid anyone's dog(s) accidentally gets out. Apparently the state of Texas would rather the shelter sell them immediately to make some money versus allowing its citizens to reclaim their pets. Pets who are like FAMILY. As a long time resident and supporter of the great state of Texas, this makes me love it a lot less. There is no reason, NO REASON to come up with much less pass a bill like this. Kill this bill!!!

Debbie Holmes

United Dog Owners Group Inc

Irving, TX

I'm a retired vet tech of 15 yrs and a professional dog trainer of over 28 yrs. I have worked with several shelter and rescue groups around the state. Taking away a mandatory wait period is wrong. Many times thru the yrs I have witnessed animals that turned up in shelters thru no fault of their own that had excellent owners. Too penalize an dog or cat owner that accidentally lost their animal is wrong on many counts. It becomes similar to the game finders keepers. Besides taking the right of ownership forcefully away from a lawful owner you are potentially inflicting grievous emotional and psychological damage to families in the loss of said animal. Penalizing owners who have lost their animals through an inadvertent accident is cruel to both the animal and the owner. Common decency and respect for our fellow man dictates that you don't even consider such a harsh and cruel tactic. Penalizing good, responsible pet owners whose animals have tragically and accidentally ended up there is not the answer to shelter overpopulation.

Ashley Millegan

Self

Paige, TX

Please vote no on HB 1083. There needs to be a 3 day wait time for owners to pick up their animals. Travel time has to be included in that situation. No one is going to search for my animals as hard as I will. Only I can call their names and they'll coming running. Please do not vote for the passing of this bill.

Janette Nowak

Myself as responsible dog owner

Montgomery, TX

As an owner of Shetland sheepdogs for several years with I show in performance and conformation, I am horrified that this bill would even be considered. My dogs are part of my family and if any one of the them was ever lost or escaped and taken To a shelter, the right thing to do is give me, the owner an opportunity to find and claim my precious dog.

This bill is a radical step toward ending an individual's ownership rights in cases where dogs accidentally get out of their owner's possession, or the possession of someone entrusted to their care, including pet sitters, boarding kennels, dog day cares, groomers, and veterinarians. The lack of mandated, minimum holding periods would effectively provide shelters with the power to automatically terminate an individual's ownership rights in their animals without giving owners an appropriate amount of time to reclaim their animal.

Please DO NOT pass this bill!

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Ann Hagan

self

Spring Branch, TX

Please oppose HB 1083. This is terrible legislation and does not protect the interests of Texas pet owners, most of whom are responsible people and offers no protection to animals..

Please oppose HB 1083.

Christine Spencer

Self

New Braunfels, TX

OPPOSE HB1083

My husband is a disabled veteran who relies on our dogs for emotional support. While we did not register any of them as official support dogs for him it does not change the fact that they are irreplaceable for him and I and sometimes it is just not within a pet owners control that an animal gets out of site. As easy as strangers trespassing, or kids opening gates & not closing them back up.

Lauren Mashburn

Self, Bookkeeper

Wylie, TX

There's needs to be a minimum amount of time given for owners to find their dogs. Whoever came up with this bill must not even have animals or gas never had an accident occur. Anyone voting FOR the bill better be completely perfect in their dog ownership abilities.

MK Brooks-Owen

Self

Magnolia, TX

I believe I am a responsible dog owner, my yard is fenced, my dogs have been under the care of a vet since we brought them home to live with us, they are trained, microchipped, groomed regularly, well fed, loved members of our family; however, accidents happen and dogs sometimes get out, get separated from their owners, and lost! The ownership interest in a pet should not be terminated when an animal is impounded in a shelter. The owners need time to try and locate their adored family members. There needs to be a reasonable amount of time (for example 5 full working days) between when an animal is taken into a shelter and the animal is placed up for adoption or euthanized. A common database would be helpful too. If the pet is lost in one county but placed in a shelter in another county with different holding times, the owner may not locate the pet in time to reclaim the pet before it is adopted out.

Jenea Martin

Self

Bryan, TX

Absolutely not, there are Occasions where dogs get away from people and they don't realize that they're out of the fence. Then they take the dog to the pound where they give it away to somebody else makes absolutely no sense

Norma Pruski

Myself/ certified dog trainer

Gillett, TX

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You cannot pass this, my dogs are my property. They are tagged and microchipped, this takes away owners rights to claim their dogs, a lost dog isn't always the owners fault, dogs slip collars, dogs get out of yards etc. How dare you proposition to take owners rights away.

George Kuettel

Self —retired pharmacist

Weatherford, TX

Please do not pass this Bill! To terminate ownership rights without due process is wrong. This Bill is closely related to thievery—there must be a chance for an owner to claim an animal before ownership is cancelled. Please do not allow this to pass.

Bonnie Ann Downs

Self

Magnolia, TX

Please do not pass this bill. Pets can get loose even with very responsible owners. The owners should be given a chance to find and reclaim their pet. This will also increase the number of stolen of pets as it would allow the thief to take ownership

Jo Posey

Self

Canyon Lake, TX

Oppose HB1083. Pets get out. Dogsitters lose them. They escape from the vet. To not give an owner any time to reclaim them, and to subject them to adoption or even euthanasia before the owner even knows they're gone is monstrous. What evil pet-hating commie proposed this bill? No no no! Bad Representative!

Deborah Rogstad

self - senior analyst

Denton, TX

Please oppose HB1083. Animals can accidentally get loose from the best owners. Storms damage fences, children open doors, fireworks panic animals into flight ... the list is long. Owners MUST be given time to find their beloved companions.

Clayton Smith, Commissioner

Burnet County E.S.D. 7

Burnet, TX

There is no need for such a blanket bill to cover all ESD's since most are doing the right thing. ESD Commissioners can be removed by the same County Commissioners & Judges that appointed if any are doing something wrong.

Dena McGowan, DVM

McGowan Veterinary Hospital, Inc.

Vidor, TX

It would be unfair not to require a minimum holding time in order to try to locate the owner. Dogs can escape fences, children leave gates open. To terminate ownership for a dog getting out through no fault of the owner, would be a gross injustice. And probably invite some law suits. Dr. Dena McGowan

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Lindsay Nieman

Self

St Hedwig, TX

Vote no. This is a terrifying bill that allows shelters to avoid accountability in not adhering to holding periods. Even good owners can have their pets lost by pet sitters, dog walkers, groomers, veterinarians, or in the event of an animal fleeing a car accident, and this bill reduces their opportunity to get their beloved pets back. What possible good will this bill do except reduce shelter accountability for hold periods. There are many court cases where shelters have violated these hold periods in the interest of getting their fees and this bill simply encourages this. Better legislation would be to mandate minimum hold periods and enforce those hold periods. Please do not continue to hurt good pet owners who need those hold periods to get their pets back. Bad owners won't care about a bill like this, but this hurts good owners. I am begging you as a life long dog lover and owner, please do not advance this bill.

Peggy Schmidt, Ms

Myself. Individual citizen and pet owner

Corpus Christi, TX

Vote no on HB1083. My dogs have never been allowed to run loose and have never been picked up and taken to a shelter, but if that ever happened I should certainly have every right to get them back. I had one incident years ago when I came home to find a gate broken by age and heavy winds. Fortunately my dogs were all home excited to show me the offending gate. But what if they had gone out and been picked up by Animal Control. Should I have not been able to reclaim them? There are pet owners who let their pets run loose all the time. There should be a penalty for that, and maybe they should forfeit ownership of their dogs. But that is not me. My dogs are my family. SO. VOTE NO ON HB1083.

Linda Carroll

self

San Leon, TX

I am definitely AGAINST this!! Shelters should have better community resources to provide information to pet owners. In South Texas, lost pets do not go to the city shelter you assume they would be at due to some contract agreements between cities.

Marcia Carberry

Myself Retired and now a animal rescue volunteer

Canyon Lake, TX

I OPPOSE HB 1083.

There are many dogs that can get lost during celebrations with fireworks. There are many dogs that just plain get away from their owners. The many shelters in Texas, are just that....put in place to shelter dogs while their owners are located or a decision is made as to how to proceed in the best interests in the dog.

What good would this do?...please vote this GONE.

Adrienne Person

self

North Zulch, TX

Please oppose HB 1083. I believe HB 1083 represents a radical step toward ending an individual's ownership rights in cases

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where dogs accidentally get out of their owner's possession, or the possession of someone entrusted to their care, including pet sitters, boarding kennels, dog day cares, groomers, and veterinarians. The lack of mandated, minimum holding periods would effectively provide shelters with the power to automatically terminate an individual's ownership rights in their animals without giving owners an appropriate amount of time to reclaim their animal.

Debra Bruce

Self

Porter, TX

Please don't do this. If a responsible owner's dog is let out by a meter reader etc this will terminate rights. If a dog is accidentally let out or gets out it's through no fault of the owner. This bill takes away any chance that they will ever get their beloved dog back.

Katherine Head

Personal

Austin, TX

I urge my congressmen to vote "no" on HB 1083. This would result in responsible owners losing their dogs. Everyone has a lapse in judgment at some point or another. My dog is registered, chipped and wears a tracking collar. I have never had a dog escape and end up in a shelter, but that doesn't mean it can't happen to me, or you.

This would result in MORE animals to be maintained, cared for, & set up for adoption in the shelters, which would result in more expense.

It makes no sense.

Ryan Stewart

Self

Universal City, TX

I oppose HB 1083.

Jennifer Stewart

Self

UNIVERSAL CITY, TX

I oppose HB 1083.

Mollie Wilson

self

Houston, TX

Please vote "no" for HB 1083. Allowing animal shelters to terminate a dog owner's rights to their animal without providing a reasonable timeframe for the owner to reclaim said animal will almost inevitably result in responsible and reputable individuals being punished for no reason. Accidents happen and it would be reckless and irresponsible to terminate a person's ownership of their animal without allowing a minimum amount of time for them to recover said animal.

Brooke Indian

Paw-Some Small Critters Rescue

Lake Jackson, TX

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Owners need longer than 3 days to try to locate missing pets. This is just another way for the communities to either Euthanize the animals without being in trouble. Or for rescues to be able to pull them and make a profit

Jeff Shaver, Attorney

Rottweiler Rescue Foundation ( 501c3 ), American Rottweiler Club , Self ( attorney)

Stagecoach, TX

OPPOSE HB1083

I oppose this Bill which strips innocent owners of their pets and valuable property rights without due process or the ability to reasonably search for and recover their lost animals . This bill is a power grab by various rescues and county to bypass owners efforts to find their lost animals for the convenience of the people holding lost animals . These groups have lost court battles on this issue so are trying to bypass reasonable time periods to recover lost pets by owners . If any of you on this committee ever had a lost pet ( escaped during a storm or while you were out of town ) you should think carefully if you would like a chance to look for and recover your beloved pet , before voting for this property rights grab . You will not have a chance to lawfully recover your pet as it will be hustled off and " adopted " for a profit ....never to be seen again .

JOAN PARSLEY, MS.

SELF

ALLEN, TX

I OPPOSE HB 1083 WHICH TAKES OWNERSHIP RIGHTS FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WHOSE DOG(S) HAVE TEMPORARILY BEEN SEPARATED FROM THEIR LOVING FAMILIES OFTEN THROUGH NOT FAULT OF THEIR OWN. PLEASE VOTE NO ON HB 1083. OUR PETS ARE COUNTING ON US!!!

Gayla Taber

Self

Georgetown, TX

Please vote no to this bill. Why would anyone make it more difficult for good pet owners to claim their pets if they get out and are brought to a facility. As it is, it appears that just finding homes for strays is difficult enough.  
Thank you.

Richard Rogstad

self - retired comm. tech.

Denton, TX

The American Kennel Club (AKC) works to protect health and safety of all dogs, and the rights of all dog owners. The AKC believes HB 1083 represents a radical step toward ending an individual's ownership rights in cases where dogs accidentally get out of their owner's possession, or the possession of someone entrusted to their care, including pet sitters, boarding kennels, dog day cares, groomers, and veterinarians. The lack of mandated, minimum holding periods would effectively provide shelters with the power to automatically terminate an individual's ownership rights in their animals without giving owners an appropriate amount of time to reclaim their animal.

As a Texas dog owner I strongly encourage you to vote no on HB 1083 as introduced.

Carol Marchbanks

Self

Brownsville, TX

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I respectfully request you OPPOSE this bill. Animal owners whose pets escape/runaway need ample time to reclaim them from the shelters. We do not need to euthanize anymore than necessary animals.

Tara Messmore

Self/k9 offiver

Cleveland, TX

3 days is NOT enough time for owners to locate animals at shelters, particularly in urban areas with a plethora of different shelters.

Chip scanning on intake should be MANDATORY at ALL shelters

Nanci and Raymond Nellis

Self retired

Alvord, TX

We Oppose HB-1083. Phil ! What can you be thinking sponsoring a bill with total disregard for us responsible dog owners !!! This is total interference in citizens business with dangerous disregard for our property rights. We have NEVER had a dog of ours impounded by and animal shelter or turned over to a rescue group. HOWEVER..... we don't want to lose dogs we love and that look to us for care because of escape from a groomer, veterinarian or trainer. I am chairmen for Responsible Dog Owners Day sponsored by Fort Worth Kennel Club. Date is Saturday 09/25/21 in Veterans Park in White Settlement. Club members with 20 or more breeds will be there to greet families searching for the right breed. PLEASE COME and visit with us, Phil. Nanci

Sylvia Mendoza

None

El Paso, TX

This bill is not right to the pet owners. Three days to locate a pet is not enough time. You should focus on other subjects like taking control of people that have animals as money machines. Same people that see a dog lost and instead of taking it to the animal shelter or get it scanned for a chip they keep it and make money out of it. There should be a law against pet mills this is where your focus should be.

Carol Wooley

Flat coated Retriever society

Alvord, TX

**OPPOSE HB1083. BAD Bill for Texas Animal Owners and Texas Pet Businesses! DANGEROUS DISREGARD OF TEXAS PROPERTY RIGHTS. DANGEROUS FOR GOVERNMENT TO BE ABLE TO TERMINATE OWNERSHIP OF YOUR DOG (or other pets) IN NO TIME.**

**SAY NO TO HB1083 !!!!!**

Esteban Velazquez

Residents if El Paso county

El Paso, TX

This bill needs to be more clear and descriptive on how it is going to affect millions of loving pet owners. Sometimes it takes weeks to find a lost pet. Now it is opening loopholes to pet thieves to just take whatever dog/animal they like and hide if for

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Three days and then call it theirs. Then sell (rehoming fee) to whoever despite the dog or whatever other living creature it might be being chipped. This is a ridiculous bill.

Joan Dunbar

self

McKinney, TX

I OPPOSE this bill. We need a mandatory hold time for owners to be found . . . this is crazy. What if the dog was being boarded and it escaped and the owners were out of town. How many heartbroken households and children would there be. By allowing local governments to set a holding time, without any set minimum, could possibly abuse an owners rights by allowing termination without any set time. . . .for whatever reason they may decide at the time. Please reconsider this bill.

Susan Richardson, Ms.

Self and also animal rescue

Spring, TX

As an animal owner and in animal rescue, I strongly OPPOSE HB1083. Terminating a persons ownership rights to a lost pet within a average 3 day city and county shelter ordinance would be completely irresponsible and devalue the meaning and value that a pet provides an owner, where studies have proven that many pet owners see their pets as a family member.

It would also put undue hardship on animal shelters who would be required to prove that they scan ALL animals for microchips, both thoroughly (over entire body), and completely (every single animal who enters a shelter), as that is not currently a guarantee all animal shelters perform the function of scanning every single animal who enters their facility.

It this bill were to be adopted into law, this would cause many people to not release an animal to a shelter, for fear that an owner may be looking for that animal and wouldn't want them to loose ownership within such a short period of time. This bill would create an additional hazard that would cause many people to just let an animal roam the streets so that an owner could be able to retrieve their pet, putting that pet in further jeopardy of getting hurt or run over by a vehicle.

This bill, if adopted, would also create an environment that would cause many more law suits between pet owners and shelters, and pet owners and rescues, to retrieve a lost pet on the basis that the shelter or rescue organization did something wrong and didn't follow legal procedures.

This bill doesn't allow for any required regulatory action on a shelter or a rescue to fulfill certain obligations (like scan for microchip, post an animal on petfinder, etc.) before attempting to claim new ownership in that animal. It would create an situation that would ultimately cause more harm and legal issues than the bill would benefit.

This bill would cause many rescues, who operate on a donation basis, to have legal contingencies in place, to fight what would most definitely create legal issues between a lost owner and pet. And it would cause some good rescues to become unscrupulous and make decisions that they have zero business in making to determine if/when a lost pet should be returned to an owner. It would give the few bad rescues the opportunity to do more harm than they currently do when they fail to return a lost pet they become aware has an owner.

Animal rescues in the state of Texas do NOT need a bill giving them ownership of another persons lost pet, because this situation, when it happens, is not common. And when it happens, most animal rescues are willing to work with a pet owners who haven't gotten a pet spayed or microchipped. Animal rescues in Texas are plenty busy with getting animals that do not have an owner looking for them, or who have been neglected and dumped at a shelter.

The only bills that should be coming forward as law in the state of Texas, should be the requirement for mandatory spay/neuter by pet owners in Texas.

Kristin Bruce-Cardwell

Self

Keller, TX

Please do not pass this bill. Owners deserve to have the time to retrieve their animals. Animals can get lose while owners are on vacation, etc.

Willie Conley, Dog breeder

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Self/dog breeder

Corsicana, TX

I am against the new bill

Tracy Hogan

Self, Retired

El Paso, TX

Three days is not sufficient time before terminating the owners' rights. Owners could be out of town, pet could be in a shelter that is not in the owners' area. There are many factors that make 3 days insufficient. I understand the intent, but I think there will be unintended consequences.

Anne Humphreys

Self/retired

Wolfforth, TX

I strongly oppose this bill. Ownership rights are sacred in Texas. They should be especially protected when they apply to animals that have a special bond with their owners. Both the animal (in some cases valuable, trained animals with specialized skills or with special needs) and the owner (in many cases children, the elderly or disabled) are unduly traumatized by any separation--let alone a permanent one.

Most impounded animals were unintentionally at large: they escaped from a yard or house due to storm or other event, panic, accident or other emergency situation. Sometimes they were in care of a pet sitter, groomer, veterinarian, or boarding facility. There are even occasions in which neighbors or unscrupulous "rescue" groups release other people's animals intentionally. Owners may be away from home or incapacitated, and may have no knowledge that the animal is at large. In most counties that this legislation would include, there are multiple shelters and rescue groups where a lost animal could be taken.

Sadly there are cases on record in which animals have been stolen by animal rights groups masquerading as "rescues".

Making this proposed change to this statute is against the general interest of responsible Texas animal owners.

Susan Richardson

Self and animal rescue group

Spring, TX

Forwarding my strong OPPOSITION to HB 1083 before it gets out of committee hearing today. Below is a list of reasons why HB 1083 should be voted NO by committee members.

1. As a pet owner and in animal rescue in Houston, this bill would create more problems than it would resolve, cause more legal issues for animal rescues who don't have the funding to fight legal claims, and a situation that is not even common for animal rescues to face.
2. Some counties do not have a required city ordinance for number of days to hold an animal in a shelter. Some shelters do not always honor the minimum hold period a county or city requires. There are too many issues where animal shelters do not appropriately scan for microchips, or don't always scan for microchips that would place both the shelter and animal rescues in legal jeopardy.
3. Animal rescues just don't see very many situations where a pet owner comes forward to reclaim a pet. Good rescues will always work with a pet owner who claims the rescue has their lost pet, good rescues have strict policies in place to deal with these situations, and good rescues always work with an owner if a pet needs spay/neuter or vaccinations. It is the few bad animal rescues, who knowing will attempt to keep an animal who an owner comes forward to claim, and in Houston that only applies to approx. 3 animal rescues out of dozens. This bill is just not needed.
4. This Bill would force good animal rescues to need funding for legal issues because that is what would be created by passing a 3 day termination of owner rights. Rescues need to have a bill that requires a claimed pet owner to repay for medical costs incurred by an animal rescue, not termination of rights. This bill would make many rescues have to close their operation due to lack of funding for legal issues that would arise.

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5. Too many situations where owners could be out of town and a sitter is watching a pet that could get lost that would make a 3 day termination of ownership impractical.
6. People would start refusing to bring a found animal to a shelter or call a shelter to pick up an animal due to this bill, and that would be adversarial to the welfare of a lost animal who could get killed or injured on the streets.
7. Animal rescues have been screaming for years for mandatory spay/neuter laws in Texas to reduce the animal overpopulation problem, and strict regulation on breeders, which are the two main areas that get ignored by state lawmakers, and have been successful in states that require those laws for pet owners. Why aren't those bill being sponsored.
8. The public needs legislators who can help solve problems, not create more new problems, which HB 1083 guarantee would cause. This bill was not well thought out, and needs to be killed today in committee.

Nancy Aguirre

None

El Paso, TX

The owner should have the right to have their pet back. Some people keep the pets hostage and then claim them as their own pets when found. At least give the owner more time to be able to claim their pet. Or give them back no matter what day it is as long as been chip by the owner.

Lilia Rivera

Self, Diagnostic Medical Sonographer RDMS (AB/BR)RVT(VT)

El Paso, TX

I have two dogs. They are rescue dogs from El Paso animal services. They are both have their microchips, are up to date with vaccines, and regular see their vet. They are like my children, I care for them as if they were my family. They are all I have. I would be devastated if I lost one of them. They are indoor dogs, but there is always a possibility of them getting out. No matter how careful you are, anything can happen. I can't imagine only having 3 days to locate them. There could be a vast variety of scenarios that could occur that would make it difficult for someone to find their pet in such a short period of time.. That is just not enough time. People should be allowed more time to search for their beloved family members before people could claim them as their own. How could you allow someone to claim a pet as theirs without adequate time to search for them? I understand that shelters cannot wait for ever, but 3 days is a ridiculously short period to wait. Please allow a longer waiting period.

Cathy Gleason

Allen

Allen, TX

Oppose 1083,

House Representatives should be aware of the Texas Supreme Court ruling of 2016 pertaining to the Lira German Shepherd case! The ruling clearly laid out that the owner did not forfeit their property rights to their German Shepherd because they could not find it! To assume a lost dog or cat will be at the owners local shelter or is correctly held for the required stray hold is a gross miscalculation! Looks like this bill has been brought forth from Weatherford TX, Parker County. I believe it would be more conducive if the county worked on animal ID protocols in their Community (since there seems to be such a problem of incoming stray animals with no identification) before entertaining A bill that would impact the entire state.

The 86th legislative session brought forth HB 2828 from Weatherford/ Parker County that forbid FOIA of shelters for owners to learn of the disposition of their lost animal. I am perplexed why this area seems to continue perpetrating laws against animal owners trying to recover their property. The Constitutional rights given to US citizens!

Is this really the level of legislation that Texas wants to be known for? This bill needs to be thrown in the file 86 along with the recommendation that this District work with their community on their animal shelter and or stray animal debacle before imposing Statewide laws that sever loved family members!

OPPOSE HB 1083

Jennifer Kyle

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Self Veterinarian

Clute, TX

Accidents happen, pets can get loose through no fault of the owner and time **MUST** be allowed to give an owner time to find and reclaim their pet. Anything else amounts to theft/kidnapping in my mind.

Joanna Johnson

Self

Arlington, TX

Please, I say no to this bill.

shannon Williams

self

MANHATTAN BEACH, TX

This is **ABSURD!!!!** Local government should not intervene with pet owners and their beloved animals. A "waiting period" is the **LEAST** the shelters can do for pets that get lost, abandoned, injured, etc.!!! Please do not even consider this bill. From a Former TEXAN and multiple dog/animal owner...

Cristal Acosta

Self

El Paso, TX

Hello Sir,

I am writing in to advocate for pet owners who may lose their animals but need more than three days to find them or reclaim them. As we know family pets become part of our homes and hearts. There are service animals, emotional support animals, and people who rely on their pets for socialization. As a therapist I have seen people mourning there lost pets and this can cause significant psychological distress in my professional opinion. Please consider changing this rule all the way understand you're probably looking out for the safety of the animals and trying to prevent future losses, some of these losses should be considered on a case by case basis and aren't necessarily related to irresponsible pet ownership. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Tammy Waldrop

Snow Song Eskies - breeder

New Caney, TX

As a reputable breeder of American Eskimo Dogs, and dog show enthusiast, I believe HB 1083 represents a radical step toward ending an individual's ownership rights in cases where dogs accidentally get out of their owner's possession, or the possession of someone entrusted to their care, including pet sitters, boarding kennels, dog day cares, groomers, and veterinarians. The lack of mandated, minimum holding periods would effectively provide shelters with the power to automatically terminate an individual's ownership rights in their animals without giving owners an appropriate amount of time to reclaim their animal. Animals mental health should be considered, as if this goes through, they could be torn from their human owners, who give them loving homes and attention. Please consider these issues as you go forward.

Natalie McAfee

Self, Administrative Assistant

WEATHERFORD, TX

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Please oppose this Bill! Animal owners deserve time to claim their pets if they should accidentally end up at a shelter.

Sara Hipolito  
Self, tax associate  
Austin, TX

Please vote no against this bill. This would allow animals to be adopted or put down before allowing their owners an opportunity to claim them. Animals get loose sometimes, and sometimes by a caregiver other than the owner, such as a petsitter, dog walker, groomer, or veterinarian. Owners should have the opportunity to find and claim their pets before their rights are stripped.

Donna Wolfe  
Self  
Highland Village, TX

I am shocked this type of Bill would be considered. Termination of ownership and no mandatory requirement of a holding period before release to adopter, rescue or euthanasia is not just, fair to the owner or the animal and is not a decent business practice. What if the animal has a valid license tag. Would no effort be made to contact the owner? This is not a solution to the problem of stray animals. A responsible owner's worst nightmare is to have a pet to accidentally get away and for them not to be able to find them. To have an animal escape and run loose does not mean the owner is irresponsible. It can happen while under care of a veterinarian, pet sitter, owner, rescue group, etc. There absolutely should be a mandatory waiting period required by all county, city, village, town animal services and centers. **THIS BILL SHOULD NOT PASS.**

Carolyn Rountree  
Self, Texas resident  
Aubrey, TX

I believe this bill takes away ownership rights prematurely from an animal impounded because of accidental loss by the owner.

abigail placke  
Dallas Fort Worth Labrador Retriever Club  
weatherford, TX

Our concern is that the lack of mandated, minimum holding periods would effectively provide shelters with the power to automatically terminate an individual's ownership rights in their pets without giving owners an appropriate amount of time to reclaim their pet.

Jodi Pritchard  
self  
LUBBOCK, TX

Please give owners the time to realize their pet has been lost and then found by the animal shelter, so they can reclaim a loved member of their family. thanks, jodi

Gail Hathaway  
self  
SAN ANTONIO, TX

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I believe HB 1083 represents a radical step toward ending an individual's ownership rights in cases where dogs accidentally get out of their owner's possession, or the possession of someone entrusted to their care, including pet sitters, boarding kennels, dog day cares, groomers, and veterinarians. The lack of mandated, minimum holding periods would effectively provide shelters with the power to automatically terminate an individual's ownership rights in their animals without giving owners an appropriate amount of time to reclaim their animal. I am strongly opposed to this bill.

Marilyn Harris

Self, retired from banking

College Station, TX

If I'm understanding correctly, this would allow my adorable, purebred dog to be adopted immediately if she happened to get out accidentally. This could occur at my house, the veterinarian, or if she was boarded. This is reprehensible and should in no way be passed. There should be at least a one to two week hold period before anything is done with someone's beloved pet.

Jeanne Stancliff

South Texas Collie Club

Manvel, TX

I oppose HB1083 as being unreasonable and unjust. Animals, even with the best care can on occasion escape from their home and/or yard. This can come from being scared, or some other extenuating circumstances. If the owner is at work when this happens, they deserve the time to locate how the animal escaped and make the necessary repairs to prevent it from happening again. This bill will only give groups against people having pets more power to take animals and have them euthanasia.

Elizabeth Hilburn

self/administrative

San Antonio, TX

I strongly urge you to not approve this proposal. I take great trouble to make sure my dogs do not escape, but this can happen despite every precaution. It is heartbreaking that a rescue can sell a pet that is actually another person's without taking steps to reunite the animal with its owners. Sadly, this is already taking place in many shelters. As the AKC has stated "We believe HB 1083 represents a radical step toward ending an individual's ownership rights in cases where dogs accidentally get out of their owner's possession, or the possession of someone entrusted to their care, including pet sitters, boarding kennels, dog day cares, groomers, and veterinarians. The lack of mandated, minimum holding periods would effectively provide shelters with the power to automatically terminate an individual's ownership rights in their animals without giving owners an appropriate amount of time to reclaim their animal." Please vote no - thank you!

Linda Moore, Esq

Myself as a responsible dog owner

Dallas, TX

I strongly oppose HB 1083, because I believe HB 1083 represents a radical step toward ending an individual's ownership rights in cases where dogs accidentally get out of their owner's possession, or the possession of someone entrusted to their care, including pet sitters, boarding kennels, dog day cares, groomers, and veterinarians. The lack of mandated, minimum holding periods would effectively provide shelters with the power to automatically terminate an individual's ownership rights in their animals without giving owners an appropriate amount of time to reclaim their animal.

Zandra Anderson

Texas Dog Lawyer

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Houston, TX

**OPPOSE HB1083: BAD Bill for Texas Animal Owners and Texas Pet Businesses!  
DANGEROUS DISREGARD of TEXAS PROPERTY RIGHTS--HOW THE GOVERNMENT CAN TERMINATE  
OWNERSHIP OF YOUR DOG (& other pets) IN NO TIME.**

?This is a dangerous bill regarding loss of ownership of our dogs/pets. This proposed law would allow the government to **TERMINATE** your ownership rights in your dog or other pet if it gets out and winds up in animal control. After the hold period which can be hours or NO time at all, your ownership rights in your dog or pet are **FOREVER TERMINATED--GONE!!!**

**OWNERSHIP RIGHTS CAN BE TERMINATED IN NO TIME-IMMEDIATELY—NO State Mandated Hold Period!!**  
Since there is NO hold period defined in state law, local governments can set a hold period for an impounded animal for a few hours or NO time. And, any local government that currently has a hold period can at any time change their laws so that you lose ownership rights in your pet **IMMEDIATELY** upon the animal entering the pound or possession of the government. Stating a hold period in state law will **NOT** fix this bill because valuable property rights will be forever **TERMINATED** without any due process in the taking.

Many local governments do not have shelters and they use private shelters or rescue organizations to take dogs and cats. This bill **IMMEDIATELY TERMINATES OWNERSHIP** upon transfer to a rescue organization The same is true for “adoption.” Absent a hold period, the city/county could **IMMEDIATELY** transfer the pet to someone else for “adoption” and that would **IMMEDIATELY TERMINATE** the owner’s rights.

**TEXANS LOVE OUR DOGS AND THIS IS WRONG!**

**BAD BILL for TEXAS PET BUSINESSES & PET PROFESSIONALS!**

Veterinarians, pet sitters, kennels, doggy daycare facilities, groomers, dog walkers, handlers, transporters and pet sitters all have possession of our dogs (& other pets) and can accidentally lose a dog. You could entrust your dog to one of these professionals, go on a weekend trip and come back to find out your dog was lost and now you **DO NOT OWN YOUR DOG ANY LONGER!** **LIABILITY SKYROCKETS** and so will insurance rates. **IMAGINE THIS CONVERSATION--Pet Business: I am sorry we lost your dog, but I am even more sorry because now you don't own your dog!**

**WHO BENEFITS FORM THIS BAD BILL-Rescue organizations get dogs/cats from animal control which is good. They put Fido or Fluffy on their website for “adoption.” Then comes along a pesky OWNER who wants Fido or Fluffy back. Sounds like a win-win. Give Fido or Fluffy back to the owner and the rescue group can save a dog or cat that really does need a home. While logical to most people, it is a BOTHER & INCONVENIENCE to some rescue groups. Some rescues happily return owned pets. But some figure that you are a bad owner if your dog gets out and flatly REFUSE to return a pet. HB1083 TERMINATES TEXAS OWNERS' RIGHTS for the CONVENIENCE of some rescue groups that do NOT even have to be a legitimate incorporated non-profit!**

**NO to HB1083 BAD FOR TEXAS OWNERS/BUSINESS!**

Bette Williams-Barber

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

Austin, TX

I urge the committee to vote against this bill. This bill allows a shelter to terminate the ownership rights without giving the owner an appropriate amount of time to reclaim their animal. Also the shelter should be required to check for microchips on the animal and use this to locate the owner before any ownership is terminated.

Respectfully submitted

Maria Houser

Self, currently unemployed

El Paso, TX

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I am respectfully asking that you please oppose HB 1083. Accidents happen to the best of pet owners. Utility workers often leave gates open, pets are stolen and then often let loose, pets escape from car accidents, manage to escape from boarding facilities, pet sitters, even vets often enough. An owner MUST have time to locate their pets, something they can't do immediately if hospitalized or out of town. Shelters, rescues and animal rights activists are out of control and are NOT anywhere close to being knowledgeable about animal husbandry. Please protect Texans' property rights.

Kathleen Barrow

Self--I am a corporate tax attorney

Midlothian, TX

I am an owner of valuable, Champion German Shepherd Dogs, and I breed them. I have attended several dog shows where dogs of all breeds are released from their kennels by members of the public or they become lose from kennels or leashes. One dog was released after a car accident. These events are always followed by frantic efforts to find and corral the dogs. Similarly, I know of numerous circumstances where beloved and valuable dogs escape from pet sitters, boarding kennels or veterinarians. There should always be a period of time that a shelter has to wait before terminating a dog's ownership. At a minimum, a shelter should be required to check for a microchip and attempt to contact a dog's owner for a few days before ownership termination. It is common practice for owners who care to microchip their dog for the dog's safety and security should an accident happen. I suggest HB 1083 be amended.

kimberly swilling

Dallas Miniature Pinscher Club

SANGER, TX

The American Kennel Club (AKC) works to protect the rights of all dog owners. The AKC believes HB 1083 represents a radical step toward ending an individual's ownership rights in cases where dogs accidentally get out of their owner's possession, or the possession of someone entrusted to their care, including pet sitters, boarding kennels, dog day cares, groomers, and veterinarians. The lack of mandated, minimum holding periods would effectively provide shelters with the power to automatically terminate an individual's ownership rights in their animals without giving owners an appropriate amount of time to reclaim their animal.

As a Texas dog owner I strongly encourage you to vote no on HB 1083 as introduced.