

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Business & Industry  
For HB 2063

Compiled on: Monday, April 3, 2023 6:21 PM

Note: Comments received by the committee reflect only the view of the individual(s) submitting the comment, who retain sole responsibility for the content of the comment. Neither the committee nor the Texas House of Representatives takes a position on the views expressed in any comment. The committee compiles the comments received for informational purposes only and does not exercise any editorial control over comments.

---

Hearing Date: April 3, 2023 8:30 AM

Anne Barlow, Ms  
Countryside Pet Resort  
Georgetown, TX

I am a boarding kennel owner in Georgetown, Texas. The best and only reliable method of protecting pet safety in a boarding kennel is a professionally monitored fire alarm which immediately notifies the nearest fire station that something is amiss. This proposed 24/7 staffing requirement puts an undue monetary, legal/liability and staffing burdens on the business owner AND creates an unrealistic expectation in the pet owner that a person on site at all times equals 100% pet safety when in fact, it does not. And I would venture to say, almost 100% of the animals that are boarded are left unattended by their owners at their homes during the day or night while their owners are away from home, which is hard to reconcile with this proposed bill.

- 1) Most boarding kennels are family/one person owned. Requiring me to staff 24/7 would more than DOUBLE my payroll requirements. This would significantly raise prices to the consumer. Additionally
- 2) There is currently a significant shortage of workers in the work force wanting part time work. Staffing has been extremely difficult for most businesse, this requirement would be next to impossible to staff.
- 3) There is an unrealistic expectation by pet owners that a human would be the deciding difference in pet safety if a fire broke out---when in fact, these staff members are NOT trained fire fighting personnel, the human element is unreliable in an emergency situation.
- 4)The business owner would face legal liability if a staff member is injured or killed while trying to fight a fire or evacuate pets.
- 5)Too many other variables come into play when relying on the human element in this situation---staff doesn't show up, staff leaves during the night, staff gets drunk/uses drugs while on duty, staff panics if a fire breaks out and leaves the building. And on and on.

Again, the most reliable and fail safe method of protecting pets in a boarding environment is a professionally monitored fire alarm system. The humar error/unreliability portion of the equation is taken out with a fire alarm system. The monitored fire alarm system SHOULD be a requirement as it is here in Georgetown. Please vote NO on HB 2063.

Anita Ross  
Self/Registered Nurse  
Stockdale, TX

I am in full support of HB 2063. Animal owners need to have this protection, and fully informed consent is the best way to protect both the animals and the owners who love them.

Robin Rosenstock, Dr  
self  
Austin, TX

I strongly support this bill. As a pet owner who has had to board my dog, I insist on knowing if someone will be on the grounds 24 hrs. It is important to make sure that the kennels are held accountable

Jodi Ware, BS, PharmD  
Retired pharmacist/Self  
Kingwood, TX

The COVID-19 pandemic led to record-breaking pet adoptions and spending in the US, with pet spending surpassing \$100 billion for the first time in 2020. Pet boarding, sitting, and care have since continued to boom, with pet spending far exceeding inflation and approaching \$137 billion in 2022.

We Texans love our pets. In fact, a recent study ranked Texas the #1 best state for pets when considering factors such as the number of pet shelters, pet-friendly restaurants, pet accounts on social media, and the average amount spent on pets. Yet, we and our beloved companion animals lack protections because the notion of pets as property has not changed with our increasing consideration of them as family members.

HB 2063 is an important step forward. Like young children unable to fend for themselves alone in a hotel room or hospital, our voiceless and vulnerable dogs and cats cannot pick up the phone or hit a call button to inform us of their needs. Most people would not knowingly leave companion animals for extended periods without care because many things can—and sadly have—gone wrong resulting in avoidable suffering and deaths.

This bill will help mitigate risks of these types of tragedies. Transparency is key.

For Texans to make informed decisions about animal family members, we must consistently be given germane information about their treatment and oversight while away from us, whether that be at doggy daycare or inpatient veterinary hospitalization.

Some may try to persuade you that veterinary facilities should be specially exempted from this legislation. I am here to tell you otherwise. Many catastrophic events have stemmed from sick or post-operative (or even healthy!) dogs and cats kenneled at veterinary clinics that were not staffed around the clock. Please believe me when I say leaving animal patients alone after normal business hours due to unwitting clients happens far more often than most realize, and it absolutely should not.

This bill is a good, preventative one that will serve to avoid risks for both consumers and veterinary professionals. Consumers need information to make the best decisions for animal family members, and veterinary professionals will be better protected by providing informed consent, so it's a win-win.

Thank you, Representative Talarico, for caring enough about Texans and our canine and feline family members to put forth this bill, and thank you to the Committee for hearing it today. You may hear my applause from Houston.

With gratitude,  
Jodi Ware, BS, PharmD

Dina Patel  
self  
Houston, TX

I fully support HB 2063. Our pets are our family and deserve to be kept safe and protected when we have to board them.