



**HUMANE SOCIETY**  
LEGISLATIVE FUND

# 2023 Texas Humane Scorecard



## 2023 Scored Texas Legislation

### Licensed Breeder Act (SB 876)

A ✓ indicates a vote for the Licensed Breeder Act (SB 876). Texas has revamped its licensed breeders law with the passage of SB 876. Effective September 1, 2023, the legislation mandates licensing for breeders with five or more breeding females, addressing previous loopholes. It eliminates the need for proof of selling 20 animals, closing a significant accountability gap.

**Sponsors:** Authored by Sens. Pete Flores and John Whitmire and sponsored by Rep. Brad Buckley.

**Status:** Signed into law by the Governor. Effective as of 9/1/23.

### Fraudulent Service Animals (HB 4164)

A ✓ indicates a vote for HB 4164. Combating the rise in fraudulent service dogs, Texas enacted HB 4164, effective September 1, 2023. Authored by Rep. Philip Cortez and sponsored by Sen. John Whitmire, the law tightens regulations around service animals. Amending Section 121.006 of the Human Resources Code, HB 4164 clarifies service animal definitions and imposes stricter penalties for misrepresentation. Offenders now face a \$1,000 fine, up from \$300, and may be required to perform 30 hours of community service for disability-focused organizations. This legislation aims to preserve the rights and safety of legitimate service animal users by deterring fraudulent claims.

**Sponsors:** Authored by Rep. Philip Cortez and sponsored by Sen. John Whitmire.

**Status:** Signed into law by the Governor. Effective as of 9/1/23.

### T-N-R is Not Abandonment (HB 3660)

A ✓ indicates a vote for HB 3660. Texas has clarified the legality of Trap-Neuter-Return (T-N-R) programs with the passage of HB 3660. Authored by Rep. Cody Vasut and sponsored by Sen. Judith Zaffirini, the law updates Section 42.092(a) of the Texas Penal Code. It defines T-N-R as nonlethal population control, offering defense against prosecution for returning T-N-R cats to outdoor homes. The legislation maintains penalties for the unreasonable abandonment of owned companion animals while safeguarding T-N-R providers from unwarranted legal action. Now put into action, HB 3660 ensures the continued success of humane feral cat management programs across the state.

**Sponsors:** Authored by Rep. Cody Vasut and sponsored by Sen. Judith Zaffirini.

**Status:** Signed into law by the Governor. Effective immediately.

### Cruelty Prevention (HB 598)

A ✓ indicates a vote for HB 598. Addressing gaps in animal cruelty legislation, Texas enacted HB 598 to enhance post-conviction possession bans. Authored by Rep. Matt Shaheen and sponsored by Sen. John Whitmire, the law amends Chapter 42 of the Texas Penal Code. Section 42.107 makes it a crime for individuals convicted of animal cruelty to possess non-livestock animals (e.g., cats or dogs) for five years post-conviction. Notably, repeat violations escalate from a Class C to a Class B misdemeanor, reflecting the severity of the offense. Effective September 1, 2023, HB 598 aims to disrupt potential future violence by restricting offenders' access to animals.

**Sponsors:** Authored by Rep. Matt Shaheen and sponsored by Sen. John Whitmire.

**Status:** Signed into law by the Governor. Effective as of 9/1/23.

### Pet Inclusive Housing (SB 349)

A ✓ indicates a vote for SB 349. Texas breaks down housing barriers with the passage of SB 349, championing pet-inclusive living. Sponsored by Rep. Anderson and authored by Sen. Springer, the law ends dog breed restrictions imposed by public housing authorities. SB 349 mandates compliance with county and municipal dangerous dog regulations, aligning with state law while prohibiting breed-based restrictions. By allowing responsible pet owners the freedom to choose their furry companions, SB 349 seeks to keep families and pets together, reducing surrenders to shelters. This legislation prioritizes the well-being of pets and aims to boost adoptions from Texas shelters, fostering a more inclusive environment for both residents and their beloved animals.

**Sponsors:** Authored by Sen. Drew Springer and sponsored by Rep. Charles Anderson.

**Status:** Signed into law by the Governor. Effective immediately.

### Humane Society Legislative Fund

The Humane Society Legislative Fund was formed in 2004 as a separate lobbying affiliate of The Humane Society of the United States. HSLF works to pass animal protection laws at the state and federal levels, to educate the public about animal protection issues, and to support humane candidates for office.

HSLF is a social welfare organization incorporated under section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions or gifts to HSLF are not tax deductible. Your donation may be used for lobbying to pass laws to protect animals, as well as for political purposes, such as supporting or opposing candidates.

cover photo: Shutterstock.com

**Texas Humane Scorecard  
State Senate**

	Licensed Breeder Act (SB 876)	Fraudulent Service Animals (HB 4164)	Score
Bryan Hughes (R-1)	X	X	0%
Bob Hall (R-2)	X	✓	50%
Robert Nichols (R-3)	✓	✓	100%
Brandon Creighton (R-4)	X	X	0%
Charles Schwertner (R-5)	✓	✓	100%
Carol Alvarado (D-6)	✓	✓	100%
Paul Bettencourt (R-7)	✓	✓	100%
Angela Paxton (R-8)	X	✓	50%
Kelly Hancock (R-9)	X	✓	50%
Phil King (R-10)	✓	✓	100%
Mayes Middleton (R-11)	X	✓	50%
Tan Parker (R-12)	✓	✓	100%
Borris Miles (D-13)	✓	✓	100%
Sarah Eckhardt (D-14)	✓	✓	100%
John Whitmire (D-15)	✓	SP	100%
Nathan Johnson (D-16)	✓	✓	100%
Joan Huffman (R-17)	✓	✓	100%
Lois Kolkhorst (R-18)	✓	✓	100%
Roland Gutierrez (D-19)	✓	✓	100%
Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa (D-20)	✓	✓	100%
Judith Zaffirini (D-21)	✓	✓	100%
Brian Birdwell (R-22)	X	✓	50%
Royce West (D-23)	✓	✓	100%
Pete Flores (R-24)	SP	✓	100%
Donna Campbell (R-25)	✓	✓	100%
José Menéndez (D-26)	✓	✓	100%
Morgan LaMantia (D-27)	✓	✓	100%
Charles Perry (R-28)	✓	✓	100%
César Blanco (D-29)	✓	✓	100%
Drew Springer (R-30)	X	✓	50%
Kevin Sparks (R-31)	✓	✓	100%

Key

✓ Took pro-animal position through vote, statement of vote, or cosponsorship

SP Served as prime sponsor of pro-animal legislation

X Took anti-animal position through vote, statement of vote, or cosponsorship

*Note: In some cases, legislators must miss votes for unavoidable personal reasons, such as a death in the family, serious illness, birth of a child or emergency in their district.*

**Texas Humane Scorecard  
State House**

	Licensed Breeder Act (SB 876)	Fraudulent Service Animals (HB 4164)	T-N-R is Not Abandonment (HB 3660)	Cruelty Prevention (HB 598)	Pet Inclusive Housing (SB 349)	Score
--	-------------------------------	--------------------------------------	------------------------------------	-----------------------------	--------------------------------	-------

Gary VanDeaver (R-1)	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	80%
Bryan Slaton (R-2)	##	##	✓	✓	X	67%
Cecil Bell Jr. (R-3)	X	X	✓	✓	X	40%
Keith Bell (R-4)	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	80%
Cole Hefner (R-5)	X	X	✓	✓	✓	60%
Matt Schaefer (R-6)	X	X	✓	✓	X	40%
Jay Dean (R-7)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Cody Harris (R-8)	X	X	✓	✓	✓	60%
Trent Ashby (R-9)	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	80%
Brian Harrison (R-10)	X	X	✓	✓	✓	60%
Travis Clardy (R-11)	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	80%
Kyle Kacal (R-12)	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	80%
Angelia Orr (R-13)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
John Raney (R-14)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Steve Toth (R-15)	X	X	✓	✓	X	40%
Will Metcalf (R-16)	X	X	✓	✓	✓	60%
Stan Gerdes (R-17)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Ernest Bailes (R-18)	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	80%
Ellen Troxclair (R-19)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Terry M. Wilson (R-20)	X	X	NV	✓	✓	40%
Dade Phelan (R-21)	P	P	P	P	P	N/A
Christian Manuel (D-22)	NV	✓	✓	✓	✓	80%
Terri Leo-Wilson (R-23)	✓	X	✓	E	✓	75%
Greg Bonnen (R-24)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Cody Vasut (R-25)	X	X	✓	✓	✓	60%
Jacey Jetton (R-26)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Ron Reynolds (D-27)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Gary Gates (R-28)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Ed Thompson (R-29)	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	100%
Geanie W. Morrison (R-30)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Ryan Guillen (R-31)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Todd Hunter (R-32)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Justin Holland (R-33)	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	80%
Abel Herrero (D-34)	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	100%
Oscar Longoria (D-35)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Sergio Muñoz Jr. (D-36)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%

Key

✓ Took pro-animal position through vote, statement of vote, or cosponsorship

SP Served as prime sponsor of pro-animal legislation

X Took anti-animal position through vote, statement of vote, or cosponsorship

E Did not vote - excused by the presiding officer

NV Did not vote due to absence or abstention

P Designated self as present not voting

## Resigned during term

N/A Not enough votes to score

*Note: In some cases, legislators must miss votes for unavoidable personal reasons, such as a death in the family, serious illness, birth of a child or emergency in their district.*

**Texas Humane Scorecard  
State House**

	Licensed Breeder Act (SB 876)	Fraudulent Service Animals (HB 4164)	T-N-R is Not Abandonment (HB 3660)	Cruelty Prevention (HB 598)	Pet Inclusive Housing (SB 349)	Score
--	-------------------------------	--------------------------------------	------------------------------------	-----------------------------	--------------------------------	-------

Janie Lopez (R-37)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Erin Gámez (D-38)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Armando "Mando" Martinez (D-39)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Terry Canales (D-40)	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	80%
R.D. "Bobby" Guerra (D-41)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Richard Peña Raymond (D-42)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
J.M. Lozano (R-43)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
John Kuempel (R-44)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Erin Zwiener (D-45)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Sheryl Cole (D-46)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Vikki Goodwin (D-47)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Donna Howard (D-48)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Gina Hinojosa (D-49)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
James Talarico (D-50)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Lulu Flores (D-51)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Caroline Harris (R-52)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Andrew S. Murr (R-53)	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	80%
Brad Buckley (R-54)	SP	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Hugh D. Shine (R-55)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Charles "Doc" Anderson (R-56)	✓	✓	✓	✓	SP	100%
Richard Hayes (R-57)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
DeWayne Burns (R-58)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Shelby Slawson (R-59)	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	80%
Glenn Rogers (R-60)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Frederick Frazier (R-61)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Reggie Smith (R-62)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Benjamin Bumgarner (R-63)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Lynn Stucky (R-64)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Kronnda Thimesch (R-65)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Matt Shaheen (R-66)	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	80%
Jeff Leach (R-67)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
David Spiller (R-68)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
James Frank (R-69)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Mihaela Plesa (D-70)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Stan Lambert (R-71)	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	100%
Drew Darby (R-72)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%

Key

✓ Took pro-animal position through vote, statement of vote, or cosponsorship

SP Served as prime sponsor of pro-animal legislation

X Took anti-animal position through vote, statement of vote, or cosponsorship

E Did not vote - excused by the presiding officer

NV Did not vote due to absence or abstention

P Designated self as present not voting

## Resigned during term

N/A Not enough votes to score

*Note: In some cases, legislators must miss votes for unavoidable personal reasons, such as a death in the family, serious illness, birth of a child or emergency in their district.*

**Texas Humane Scorecard  
State House**

	Licensed Breeder Act (SB 876)	Fraudulent Service Animals (HB 4164)	T-N-R is Not Abandonment (HB 3660)	Cruelty Prevention (HB 598)	Pet Inclusive Housing (SB 349)	Score
--	-------------------------------	--------------------------------------	------------------------------------	-----------------------------	--------------------------------	-------

Carrie Isaac (R-73)	X	X	✓	✓	X	40%
Eddie Morales (D-74)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Mary E. González (D-75)	NV	✓	✓	✓	✓	80%
Suleman Lalani (D-76)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Evelina "Lina" Ortega (D-77)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Joe Moody (D-78)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Claudia Ordaz (D-79)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Tracy O. King (D-80)	NV	✓	✓	✓	✓	80%
Brooks Landgraf (R-81)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Tom Craddick (R-82)	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	80%
Dustin Burrows (R-83)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Carl H. Tepper (R-84)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Stan Kitzman (R-85)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
John T. Smithee (R-86)	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	80%
Four Price (R-87)	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	80%
Ken King (R-88)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Candy Noble (R-89)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Ramon Romero Jr. (D-90)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Stephanie Klick (R-91)	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	80%
Salman Bhojani (D-92)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Nate Schatzline (R-93)	X	X	✓	✓	✓	60%
Tony Tinderholt (R-94)	X	X	✓	✓	X	40%
Nicole Collier (D-95)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
David Cook (R-96)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Craig Goldman (R-97)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Giovanni Capriglione (R-98)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Charlie Geren (R-99)	✓	✓	P	NV	✓	60%
Venton Jones (D-100)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Chris Turner (D-101)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Ana-Maria Ramos (D-102)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Rafael Anchía (D-103)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Jessica González (D-104)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Terry Meza (D-105)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Jared Patterson (R-106)	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	80%
Victoria Neave Criado (D-107)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Morgan Meyer (R-108)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%

Key

✓ Took pro-animal position through vote, statement of vote, or cosponsorship

SP Served as prime sponsor of pro-animal legislation

X Took anti-animal position through vote, statement of vote, or cosponsorship

E Did not vote - excused by the presiding officer

NV Did not vote due to absence or abstention

P Designated self as present not voting

## Resigned during term

N/A Not enough votes to score

*Note: In some cases, legislators must miss votes for unavoidable personal reasons, such as a death in the family, serious illness, birth of a child or emergency in their district.*

**Texas Humane Scorecard  
State House**

Licensed Breeder Act (SB 876)  
 Fraudulent Service Animals (HB 4164)  
 T-N-R is Not Abandonment (HB 3660)  
 Cruelty Prevention (HB 598)  
 Pet Inclusive Housing (SB 349)  
 Score

Legislator	Licensed Breeder Act (SB 876)	Fraudulent Service Animals (HB 4164)	T-N-R is Not Abandonment (HB 3660)	Cruelty Prevention (HB 598)	Pet Inclusive Housing (SB 349)	Score
Carl O. Sherman Sr. (D-109)	E	E	✓	✓	✓	100%
Toni Rose (D-110)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Yvonne Davis (D-111)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Angie Chen Button (R-112)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Rhetta Andrews Bowers (D-113)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
John Bryant (D-114)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Julie Johnson (D-115)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Trey Martinez Fischer (D-116)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Philip Cortez (D-117)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
John Lujan (R-118)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Elizabeth "Liz" Campos (D-119)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Barbara Gervin-Hawkins (D-120)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Steve Allison (R-121)	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	80%
Mark Dorazio (R-122)	✓	✓	✓	✓	NV	80%
Diego M. Bernal (D-123)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Josey Garcia (D-124)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Ray Lopez (D-125)	✓	✓	✓	✓	NV	80%
Sam Harless (R-126)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Charles Cunningham (R-127)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Briscoe Cain (R-128)	X	X	✓	✓	✓	60%
Dennis Paul (R-129)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Tom Oliverson (R-130)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Alma A. Allen (D-131)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Mike Schofield (R-132)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Mano DeAyala (R-133)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Ann Johnson (D-134)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Jon E. Rosenthal (D-135)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
John H. Bucy III (D-136)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Gene Wu (D-137)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Lacey Hull (R-138)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Jarvis Johnson (D-139)	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	100%
Armando Walle (D-140)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Senfronia Thompson (D-141)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Harold V. Dutton Jr. (D-142)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Ana Hernandez (D-143)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Mary Ann Perez (D-144)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%

**Key**

✓ Took pro-animal position through vote, statement of vote, or cosponsorship

SP Served as prime sponsor of pro-animal legislation

X Took anti-animal position through vote, statement of vote, or cosponsorship

E Did not vote - excused by the presiding officer

NV Did not vote due to absence or abstention

P Designated self as present not voting

## Resigned during term

N/A Not enough votes to score

*Note: In some cases, legislators must miss votes for unavoidable personal reasons, such as a death in the family, serious illness, birth of a child or emergency in their district.*



**Texas Humane Scorecard  
State House**

	Licensed Breeder Act (SB 876)	Fraudulent Service Animals (HB 4164)	T-N-R is Not Abandonment (HB 3660)	Cruelty Prevention (HB 598)	Pet Inclusive Housing (SB 349)	Score
Christina Morales (D-145)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Shawn Thierry (D-146)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Jolanda "Jo" Jones (D-147)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Penny Morales Shaw (D-148)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Hubert Vo (D-149)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Valoree Swanson (R-150)	X	X	✓	✓	X	40%

Key

✓ Took pro-animal position through vote, statement of vote, or cosponsorship

**SP** Served as prime sponsor of pro-animal legislation

X Took anti-animal position through vote, statement of vote, or cosponsorship

**E** Did not vote - excused by the presiding officer

**NV** Did not vote due to absence or abstention

**P** Designated self as present not voting

**##** Resigned during term

**N/A** Not enough votes to score

*Note: In some cases, legislators must miss votes for unavoidable personal reasons, such as a death in the family, serious illness, birth of a child or emergency in their district.*