

TEXAS FEDERATION HUMANE *of* SOCIETIES



THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS FOR PASSING NON-SURGICAL STERILIZATION

Patt Nordyke

Texas Federation of Humane Societies, Austin, TX

Our goal was to amend the Texas Sterilization act so that shelters would be in a position to utilize new sterilization technologies when they came on the market.

We positioned ourselves to be low-key in our approach and to show a need for non-surgical sterilization by collecting data on the number of euthanized animals in metropolitan areas in Texas. Second, we

selected legislators who were experienced and had staff willing to do the necessary support work to make sure the bill moved through the legislature, and who were respected on both sides of the aisle, regardless of their party affiliation.

With regard to making convincing arguments, we showed that adding non-surgical verbiage to the statute would be easier on the animals and place fewer burdens on the shelters.

The amended wording is as follows: Sterilization, the surgical removal of the reproductive organs of a dog or cat or the use of non-surgical methods approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration or the United States Department of Agriculture, to make the animal permanently unable to reproduce