

**From:** D. Jean Williams <CreatingGreenpiece@juno.com>  
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**Date:** Wed, 11 Feb 2004 15:18:21 -0800  
**Subject:** PD historic range

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Monica,

The following is a quote from one of your responses to our members.

"Much of the prairie dogs historic range is still intact and prairie the prairie ecosystem would benefit greatly from the restoration of prairie dogs to their historic range from the shortgrass and mixed prairies of the Great Plains, from eastern Kansas and Nebraska to the Rocky Mountains and from southern Canada to northern Mexico. Relocation would require the specific species of prairie dogs are restored to their species specific ranges."

This information is incomplete or taken out of context. The missing information probably deals with the fact that prairie dog ranges may still be intact, but why are prairie dogs no longer living there? The answer is because they have been eradicated from their original range, by ranchers and farmers. They only chance they have to be "restored to their species specific ranges", is if the ranchers and farmers change their minds and attitudes. NWF is working on that, but it won't happen in time.

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**From:** Joannhaddock@aol.com  
**To:** monica@api4animals.org  
**Date:** Wed, 11 Feb 2004 14:45:44 EST  
**Subject:** Your dockets comments re: Docket No. 2003N-0400

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Dear Monica,

After reading your comments re: the above, I felt the need to respond. I know that we both wish all animals well, and specifically prairie dogs. However, I know we have different ideas and attitudes as to the methods of doing this. Please let me explain my position.

Much to most people's amazement, I used to believe that prairie dogs should not be pets. I now believe differently. I now have two pet prairie dogs of my own. One was rescued as a starved baby from a ranch and raised in captivity and the other one was also caught in the wild with no hair and sickly from eating toxic weeds. If he had been relocated, more than likely he would have killed himself by continuing this habit. Both are happy as can be with me. I realize that most pet prairie dogs have a very happy home while some may not be cared for as well as others. Yes, that is hard to accept. However, is this not the way it is with ALL animals, including humans? I was told by a very wise person that "life is a lottery, some have it better than others". Oh, that is so true. Reality is just that...real. I truly believe the vast majority of prairie dogs are very well cared for.

It was then shown to me after I became involved in relocation that there is simply not enough land available to relocate these prairie dogs to. What is the next best alternative? Pets... In my best estimate, there are 10 major relocators in the U.S. Well, let's estimate that each relocater captures 1,000 pds each year. That is 10,000 prairie dogs captured. Let's then estimate 2,000 per each relocater, that is 20,000 pds. And so on....If you have that much land available to relocate them to, then please by all means contact me. I hope you understand where I am going. I live right outside Lubbock, Texas and am surrounded by prairie dogs in constant danger of death. Horrible deaths....poisoning, gassing, and simply buried alive and paved over. I watch this daily and frantically save as many as possible. We have one area here with approx. 40,000 on. They are currently in danger of being killed by city officials. If they are caught, what is your suggestion of where they can be placed?

Let me say this as well, I am no great fan of Texas Parks and Wildlife since they advocate poisoning and will tell you specifically how to do that. I do however, see some change in that area locally. My organization (Citizens for Prairie Dogs) is now working with them and letting them know alternatives to killing. So locally, if a person calls in they recommend us for relocation. However, do they try to find land to relocate them to? No. So what will happen this spring is that many babies (pet candidates) that we have captured can be placed in loving homes if the ban is rescinded. Otherwise there is simply no sense in saving them to begin with. I urge you to reconsider and hope you rethink your position. I encounter daily people who "care" about prairie dogs but don't see them actually "doing" anything to help the cause. We do because we do care and I guarantee I would not advocate pet prairie dogs unless I truly felt that prairie dogs are happy in captivity. And they are.

I would love to visit with you further on this.

Cordially,

Joann D. Haddock  
Founder of Citizens for Prairie Dogs

**From:** "Prairie Dog Lover" <prairiedoglover@kconline.com>  
**To:** "PDLF" <PrairieDogLoversForum@yahoogroups.com>  
**Date:** Sat, 14 Feb 2004 11:44:41 -0500  
**Subject:** [PDLF] Fw: Texas Tech kills prairie dogs rather than preserve them?

here's my letter to Texas Tech from last Monday..

----- Original Message -----

**From:** joannhaddock@aol.com  
**To:** PrairieDogLoversForum@yahoogroups.com  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2004 11:14 AM  
**Subject:** Re: [PDLF] reporters and Texas Tech

Dianne,

Thank you very much for writing that letter to TTU. Why don't you post it? I didn't want to w/out your permission. Let's keep on keeping on.

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Prairie Dog Lover  
**To:** tech.president@ttu.edu  
**Sent:** Monday, February 09, 2004 1:41 PM  
**Subject:** Texas Tech kills prairie dogs rather than preserve them?

Dear Jon Whitmore, Ph.D:

It has recently come to my attention that prairie dogs on the property of the University you serve were senselessly killed rather than relocated to land where they are welcome. As a concerned citizen for prairie dogs, I demand to know why humane solutions were not applied. There are viable options to the cold, calculating option that was carried out by Texas Tech, and I am outraged that your facility is so cold and callous about one of God's most precious creatures! If God put prairie dogs in your soil, who gives **YOU** the authority to remove them in such a horrendous way????

Incidentally, I am not an animal rights activist, nor do I belong to any such extremist group. I am your average human. I am a United States Citizen, taxpayer and voter. I share my life, heart and home with 16 incredibly loving prairie dogs that were humanely captured from the state of Texas! They are family members just as dogs or cats are family members. And just for the record, my prairie dog family members range in ages 1 through 11 and DO NOT have any diseases!

I had no idea how special these animals were at one time, and know that if you knew the nature of the prairie dog as I do, you might consider protecting them as well. I invite you to educate yourself and others under your direction about the plight of the prairie dog.

In the future, it would be in your best interest to contact "Citizens for Prairie Dogs" or "PMS Recycling" should the need arise for you to MOVE what God put there.. rather than KILLING prairie dogs. Please, keep these telephone numbers and USE them. Who cares? WE CARE!

PMS Recycling - Lynda Watson - (806) 799.5806  
 Citizens for Prairie Dogs - Joann Haddock - (806) 657.4563

Here is an article that I found on YOUR website:

[http://www.depts.ttu.edu/aged/agriculturist/fall2001/prairiedog\\_story.html](http://www.depts.ttu.edu/aged/agriculturist/fall2001/prairiedog_story.html) (below)

## Prairie Dogs: Friend or Foe?

by Tamara Pruessner









