

**From:** [Elizabeth Jones](#)  
**To:** [Trisha Linebarger](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)  
**Date:** Monday, July 20, 2020 4:29:39 PM

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From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission  
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2020 4:24:26 PM (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)  
To: Sunset Advisory Commission  
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: TEXAS DEPARTMENT LICENSING AND REGULATION

First Name: Monica

Last Name: Ailey

Title: President

Organization you are affiliated with: Animal Investigation & Response

Email: monica@animalinvestigationandresponse.org

City: Fort Worth

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed:

Hello! My name is Monica Ailey and I am the President of Animal Investigation & Response. I have been in animal welfare for over 20 years and have over 12 years of experience with large scale animal operations. I have spent an unmentionable number of hours caring for animals that come from sub standard breeding operations. I vividly remember the very first time I experienced inside one of these breeding operations. The living conditions that animals were enslaved to from some of these operations, left me speechless. The smell and the filth were so unbearable. I quickly realized that these animals had endured this existence for as long as they lived. Some of the dogs were young or middle aged and some were very old. Many of the old dogs were so frail but still nursing their babies. They looked like little skeletons with patches of fur draped over their bones. Several had broken jaws and missing teeth. Many nursing and pregnant moms had mammary tumors. After the dogs had been seen by a veterinarian, we found that many had an infection of their uterus from over breeding. The food provided to them had maggots and roaches in it and their water, if it was provided, was not palatable for even the roaches that lay deceased in it.

Although justice finally came for many of these little survivors that day, the hardest thing to know was that it was too late for others that had died unnoticed. Their life wasn't even important enough for them to have a proper burial but rather, become an unidentifiable pile of bones and fur on the floor of a cage that had been rusted shut.

At the end of the day, I had a headache from the high ammonia levels and reeked of fecal matter. Even after several showers, my skin smelled for days.

If the conditions affected me after just one day, it was inconceivable to me how these dogs were able to live this way year after year.

This is just one account of many cases I have experienced over the last 12+ years. All different properties, but all very similar accounts.

Removing state oversight would be detrimental to the lives of the animals living in conditions such as this and would allow the animals of the state of Texas to suffer needlessly. Having a minimum level of standards and inspectors to enforce the standards is crucial to allowing high-volume breeders to operate in our state. We can not count on the USDA to protect our animals as we have already seen that they have internal circumstances that do not allow them to even report findings as public information for those of us investigating these operations due to complaints of cruelty.

As an animal cruelty investigator that has seen more than anyone's fair share of neglect and cruelty, I ask of you not to repeal the breeder law. Taking this issue back to what it used to be will be the death of many animals in Texas. It needs to be strengthened. Loopholes need to be closed. We are a great state and this great state needs to continue to strive for higher standards for animals. Having the laws and systems in place, helps to distinguish the high volume breeders who care for their animals, from those that just see them as a product for profit with no after thought.

Thank you for your time.

Best Regards,  
Monica Ailey - President - Animal Investigation & Response

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

Strengthening this program by closing the loopholes from 11 breeders to half of what it is, and removing the sales requirement is the recommendation I would offer. I would also recommend that the inspections be done without appointment. This will allow the true reading of the property and how the dogs live on a day to day basis. Making appointments for property checks only allows the breeder to move animals temporarily to avoid fines. Based on experience, this happens more often than not.

My final recommendation is for the Texas Sunset Advisory Commission accompany the TDLR inspectors to see first hand why this program is very much needed to ensure the laws are followed and enforced. And to understand that their findings are the proof that these laws and this program are working.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree