

From: [Elizabeth Jones](#)
To: [Trisha Linebarger](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Monday, July 13, 2020 9:41:05 AM

From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission
Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 5:52:17 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: Kristen

Last Name: Bergeson

Title: Ambassador

Organization you are affiliated with: Texas Humane Legislation Network

Email:

City: Bertram

State: Texas

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

I am an Ambassador for Texas Humane Legislation Network, and I am asking the Sunset Commission to preserve the Texas Licensed Breeders Program. Since 2011 it has promoted basic standards of care in large scale breeding facilities while preventing animal cruelty before it happens. It does this by preventing Texas breeders with a history of animal cruelty from becoming licensed. Without the program, there would be many more large scale seizures thereby burdening taxpayers and non-profits. Also, the TDLR program regulates breeders that are outside of the USDA's purview. The program also provides a very needed tool for individuals looking to make an informed decision before purchasing a cat or a dog. Recently, a family member purchased a puppy over the Internet. She arranged to have the puppy delivered to her. When it arrived, it was extremely small and sick. She spent hundreds of dollars in getting this little pup healthy, and it was touch-and-go for awhile. Her veterinarian was very angry that a breeder was allowed to sell a puppy so young and ill. Also, the requirement that only those breeders selling 20 or more puppies or kittens per year should be licensed should be removed, as it is impossible to really track the number of sales since some may be done by cash. In addition, the number of intact breeding females should be reduced from 11 to 5. I live on a ranch outside of Bertram and remember for years the puppy mill dogs that would be lined up along the sides of 183 and Highway 29 at Seward Junction. Every week-end there would be several of these "breeders" out there selling their pups, no matter what the weather was like. It made me furious! I have not seen that situation in several years, probably because of the passage of the Texas Dog & Cat Breeder Act. I urge you to protect this incredibly important program and to consider the amendments to make it stronger. Please speak for the animals who cannot speak for themselves!

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

Remove the unenforceable requirement that only breeders selling 20 kittens or dogs be licensed.

Lower the breeding females requirement from 11 to 5.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree