

From: [Elizabeth Jones](#)
To: [Trisha Linebarger](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Thursday, July 30, 2020 12:41:04 PM

From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 12:31:35 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: Andrea

Last Name: Chewning

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with:

Email:

City: Texarkana

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: I have worked with a local companion animal rescue group for over 15 years. I can tell you from personal experience that we need The 2011 Texas Dog & Cat Breeder Act. Please do not roll back protections for dogs and cats in breeding facilities. They need our protection. DO NOT dismantle the Licensed Breeder Program.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

As an experienced companion animal rescuer, I have personally seen & dealt with the devastating results of puppy & kitten "mills". Many breeder animals are kept in tiny crowded cages, resulting in severe health & behavioral issues. A large number of the puppies & kittens that are "produced" also have health problems. "Non-Perfect" animals aren't humanely euthanized, they may be just tossed away to die a slow, horrific death.

Instead of dismantling this Program, the Texas Legislature should strengthen it to better protect animals and families considering purchasing a puppy or kitten. Specifically, the requirement that only breeders selling 20 or more puppies or kittens be licensed should be removed because most sales are untracked cash transactions, thus making it nearly impossible to determine how many animals a breeder sells.

Second, currently only breeders with 11 or more adult, intact female animals must be licensed. That number should be lowered to five (in line with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's requirement) to ensure all large-scale breeding facilities are being properly regulated.

Actually, if it was in my power, EVERY breeder (no matter the size of the operation), EVERY breeder animal, & EVERY puppy and/or kitten that is offered for sale (or even given away by a breeder) would need to be examined on a regular basis by a veterinarian licensed in Texas. That veterinarian would need to give written approval of the breeding facility, the breeding animal, & the puppy or kitten involved in the "transaction". These companion animals are living beings & should be treated humanely, not just as money-making objects.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree