

From: [Elizabeth Jones](#)
To: [Trisha Linebarger](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
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From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 2:01:37 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: Beth

Last Name: Gammie

Title: Director of Field Services

Organization you are affiliated with: RedRover

Email: bgammie@redrover.org

City: Sacramento

State: California

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

RedRover is a national animal welfare organization that has worked often in Texas, and we strongly urge the legislature to preserve the License Breeders Program. This program, and the The Dog and Cat Breeder Act, is essential to ensuring that basic standards are met by those who breed and sell animals in Texas.

We have seen the positive impact this law has had on animal welfare and also on the counties who must foot the bill for large puppy mill seizures--these cases can cost in the tens of thousands of dollars and swamp the local Animal Control agency and shelters in conducting the case and then placing the animals.

RedRover has responded to Texas many times to help counties and cities deal with cruelty cases where breeders kept animals in filthy conditions and/or did not provide them appropriate food, water, and veterinary care; before the law was enacted we responded to puppy mill cases where hundreds of animals were kept in substandard conditions (Kaufman County, 540 dogs; Montague County 483 dogs). Since this law was passed, and the program of inspecting and licensing breeders was implemented, these mega-puppy mill cases have become rare. Counties have avoided the financial burden on their jurisdictions simply by the law's ability to help prevent cruelty conditions from occurring.

Rather than allowing the law to sunset, RedRover believes that it should be strengthened. The unenforceable requirement that only breeders who sell more than 20 puppies or kittens is a loophole which breeders can routinely evade by not tracking sales and/or conducting their sales in cash. Further, the law should reduce the number of breeding females from 11 to 5.

Texas got on the right track by enacting legislations to license, inspect, and ensure that the animals being bred for sale received the most basic of care. The benefits to counties and cities, besides the welfare of the animals themselves, has been immense. RedRover urges the legislature to not backtrack on the progress that has been made for animal welfare in Texas.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Keep the law and strengthen it.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree