

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Trisha Linebarger](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
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From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov [<mailto:sunset@sunset.texas.gov>] On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 10:53 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission <Sunset@sunset.texas.gov>
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: TEXAS ANIMAL HEALTH COMMISSION

First Name: Kelly

Last Name: Heitkamp

Title: Attorney

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City: Longview

State: Texas

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

Its disturbing to think that Texas legislators would not understand and appreciate the significant ramifications of lifting the regulations imposed upon Puppy Mills considering the significant role Texas has historically played in the overpopulation of puppies throughout this country. Texas had been euthanizing substantially higher numbers of animals before the restrictions were levied upon this abhorrent industry which exists solely for profit and promoted by ignorance. The light has now shone on this deeply dark trade, specifically the horrors of abused and neglected animals who are touched only when pups are removed from nursing mothers.

I have no doubt you have been inundated with details of the lack of health care and defects of inbreeding that results from this practice and the heartache that befalls families who purchased a puppy mill puppy sold at pet stores, flea markets, carnivals, internet, and along country roads. There is no "lemon law" for puppies sold in Texas and virtually no recourse considering animals are considered mere "chattel" in Texas where the value of a dog is limited to garage sale price.

The animals who suffer in the corners of dark garages and sheds, in the heat of the Texas summer with little or no ventilation, have no way of escape.

Many of them never see a patch of sky or feel the grass beneath their feet at any time during their desperate lives. This regulatory requirement to inspect these individuals/entities must stay in place as it is the only real chance to expose these predators for who and what they are. Anyone who fails to understand the overwhelming value of this statute/regulation have not had the unbearable misfortune of witnessing these places which mirror the belly of hell in ways that shock the conscience into believing true evil exists in this world and its all around us.

Please understand that any lenience on this issue will be met with the same passion and furor as demonstrated at the capital during 2000- 2010. This is not something that can ever be tolerated, especially not in a civilized society.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: I would like to see the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation be afforded respect rather than treated as a dumping ground. Let's start there.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree