

From: [Elizabeth Jones](#)
To: [Trisha Linebarger](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Monday, August 10, 2020 11:09:40 AM

From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2020 7:00:59 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: Katherine

Last Name: Kasten

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with:

Email:

City: Cedar Hill

State: Texas

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

I agree with the recommendations that the Dog and Cat Breeders Act is wasting state funds and personnel and should be abolished. As your report states:

- The Licensed Breeder Program is unnecessary, as other state and federal laws regulate a larger number of breeders and owners. "State law [already] makes cruelty to animals - including failing to provide necessary food, water, care, or shelter - a criminal offense punishable up to a state jail felony, which is appropriate for law enforcement, not a regulatory agency to address." (Staff report, page 25.) Moreover, the program, duplicates USDA federal standards for breeding animals for sale.
- The Licensed Breeder Program fails to meet expectations. In 2011, when the legislature considered creating the Dog and Cat Breeders Act, proponents of the legislation indicated that more than 1,000 breeders in Texas would be subject to the Act. Throughout its implementation, the actual number of licensees has averaged between 150-170. Some large breeders left Texas after the program was created, others just went underground. The law was ill-conceived from the beginning and pushed by a politician desperate for her 15 minutes of fame.
- The Licensed Breeder Program's revenues do not cover administrative costs, as required by law. "A 2018 agency fee study found the program had a 38% cost overrun. Enforcement cases took 307 days to resolve in fiscal year 2019, more than double the average across all TDLR programs."
- The Act's narrow focus boosts unlicensed activity. Many types of breeding animals are exempt from state regulation, including any animal used for racing or field competitions, personal use, herding, or hunting.

Additionally, because pet sales are often cash transactions and because a breeder can lawfully give away animals without keeping a record, it is almost impossible for TDLR to prove the sale of at least 20 animals per year. Or the "ownership" of a certain number of bitches able to be bred.

This is an honest evaluation of a program doomed from the get go. Listen to them and accept the recommendations.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Let existing laws and local governments deal with

puppy mills and disreputable backyard breeders.
Spend limited State resources on roads, schools and the vulnerable.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree