

**From:** [Elizabeth Jones](#)  
**To:** [Trisha Linebarger](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 24, 2020 6:09:22 PM

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From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission  
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 6:07:43 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%20DEPARTMENT%20LICENSING%20AND%20REGULATION

First Name: Felicia

Last Name: Kerney

Title: Chief of the Animal Cruelty Unit

Organization you are affiliated with: Dallas County District Attorney's Office

Email: Felicia.Kerney@dallascounty.org

City: Dallas

State: Texas

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

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to comment on the Repeal of the Texas Dog and Cat Breeder Act. The repeal of this act would not only be detrimental to the lives of dogs and cats involved in breeding practices but it would also be extremely detrimental to the community that the legislators serve.

As Chief of the Animal Cruelty Unit, I have seen a number of animal cruelty cases ranging from animals being tortured to animals not being provided the "basic" care necessary to maintain them in good health. The repeal of this act will give large scale animal breeders "permission" to mistreat and neglect animals in their care. It tells large-scale breeders that the lives of these animals are not important and have no value therefore do with them as you will.

Maintaining a large breeding facility, if done properly, can be expensive and for some financially cumbersome. If this act is repealed, some breeders will fail to provide the basic standard of care required for animals in their custody. For some, this means less than adequate housing, food and little if any veterinarian care because these things can prove to be expensive at times.

The current act aids in the prevention of animal cruelty by requiring the breeding facilities to be subject to periodic inspections. If a facility has animals that are not properly cared for, inspectors can reach out to their local law enforcement agency and report what they observed. As a result, an investigation can be initiated and possibly the animals removed. Without this "policing" agency, many cases of neglect will go unreported and these animals will continue to suffer at the hands of their breeders. In addition, failure to regulate breeders will make it difficult to track whether breeders with animal cruelty convictions are applying to breed and sell dogs and cats in Texas.

Not only will animals of large breeding facilities suffer, the community at large will also suffer. The repeal of the act will put future animal owners in jeopardy of being defrauded by purchasing animals that may have illnesses not visible to the naked eye. This purchase can result in the new pet owner ultimately suffering a financial and at times emotional loss.

This financial loss can come in the form of expensive veterinarian bills paid out by the new pet owner to treat the animal. It is unfair for an individual to be responsible for providing their new pet, who they believe to be in good health, with veterinarian care that should have been provided by the breeder.

The emotional loss suffered by an individual who purchases a sick animal is far more damaging than the financial loss suffered. Often times, the new owner does not realize that the animal is sick until the animal has been in their possession for some time and a bond has been created between the owner, his or her family and the animal. If the animal is so ill that it has to be euthanized, this loss can be devastating for the family.

With all things considered, I respectfully request that the Texas Dog and Cat Breeder Act NOT be repealed and the new recommendations be considered.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:  
I recommend the following:

Lower the breeding females requirement from 11 to 5. (This is consistent with the USDA requirement)

Remove the requirement that only breeders who sell twenty or more puppies or kittens a year be licensed.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree