

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Trisha Linebarger](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Monday, August 24, 2020 9:36:03 AM

From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov [<mailto:sunset@sunset.texas.gov>] On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission
Sent: Friday, August 21, 2020 3:40 PM
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: Nat

Last Name: L

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with:

Email:

City: Dallas

State: Texas

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

I staunchly OPPOSE the Sunset Staff recommendation to abolish the Licensed Breeders Program.

Breeders must be regulated not only for the welfare of animals in our state, but for the welfare of our communities.

The breeder program will serve to elevate responsible breeders and cause irresponsible breeders to seek income elsewhere.

TEXAS DOES NOT NEED MORE ANIMALS!

And that's exactly what we will get if this program is abolished. Our state has embarrassingly high rates of euthanization from overrun shelters. We have so many unwanted pets here that many shelter animals are shipped off for adoption to states who actually take animal welfare seriously. Additionally, overrun shelters cost money - the breeder program effectively reduces the number of animals in our state and the strain on our local animal shelters. People who buy pets from irresponsible breeders often end up surrendering those pets later - they are often buying pets from these "breeders" at a very low cost as compared to responsible breeders. They learn very quickly that there is no "cheap" way to own a pet. They cost money, even if they are only being provided basic necessities. These pet owners then surrender these pets to crowded shelters.

Irresponsible breeders are infusing bad genetics into our pet ecosystem, leading to costs to pet owners and cities when these poor animals begin experiencing the adverse affects of inbreeding.

All of these factors combine to create an environment and culture in our state that endlessly promotes the mistreatment of animals as acceptable.

Bad breeders have shown time and time again that without regulation, they will overbreed and keep animals in deplorable, unacceptable conditions. This is completely unacceptable and I am embarrassed as a Texan that I am even having to sign a petition and explain this to the Sunset Staff. Abolishing measures that protect animals makes

us as Texans look REALLY bad, as though we have zero intelligence or compassion for animals.

Do what is right. Texas is better than this. Our animals deserve better.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Look at the financials for the strain on local shelters, veterinary practices and rates of euthanization of pets - this is largely caused by irresponsible breeding. Any money spent enforcing the Licensed Breeders Program will surely be exceeded by the costs of a continued surplus of pets in our communities.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree