

From: [Elizabeth Jones](#)
To: [Trisha Linebarger](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Thursday, October 1, 2020 4:18:09 PM

From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2020 4:16:55 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: Charles

Last Name: Mendeke

Title: Sheriff

Organization you are affiliated with: Uvalde County

Email: sheriff@uvaldecountry.com

City: Uvalde

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: As Sheriff of Uvalde County, we see first hand the amount of unwanted dogs in our area. We also commonly see people looking to make a quick profit and financial gain by breeding and selling dogs. While we don't directly have a major issue with puppy mills in our area, the removal of the licensed breeder program would be a huge step backwards in animal welfare for the State of Texas as a whole. Texas is ranked third in the entire country for putting unwanted dogs and cats to sleep each year, that is a sad statistic for Texas. Supporting legislation such as the Licensed Breeder Program, helps to deter these horrible puppy mill operations and backyard breeders. We as a State need to be moving forward and improving our animal welfare status and not backwards by removing such legislation. Allowing puppy mills back into Texas would be a sad reflection, as conditions are absolutely horrific for animals kept in these situations. The dogs are simply seen as property and used purely for profit with zero regard for the animals well being, health, or overall condition. Texas has to do better and we can, take a stand and support the Licensed Breeder Programs.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Animal Welfare needs to be taken more seriously for companion animals, it's a direct reflection of a community. Removing legislation which is already in place, is simply taking major steps backwards in the wrong direction.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree