

**From:** [Elizabeth Jones](#)  
**To:** [Trisha Linebarger](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:58:09 PM

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From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission  
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:54:24 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: Erin

Last Name: Shults

Title: DVM/CEO

Organization you are affiliated with: Mazie's Mission

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State: Texas

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

Hello, thank you for reading my comments. I am a veterinarian and have been in practice for over 23 years. The last half of my career has been in the homeless animal sector working with shelters and rescue groups. This has put me in positions where I have been called to examine breeder animals and the environments they live in with the anticipation that I would testify in court in regards to how the animals were cared for.

Not once have I testified in favor of the breeder. I am not talking about the breeder who has 2-3 animals that they breed at home for the betterment of the breed. These are the puppy mills that the Texas Dog and Cat Breeder Law has aimed to improve over the last several years. These poor animals live in squalor and suffer immensely. Most of them never get out of a cage much longer than their own bodies and are forced to live in their waste their entire lives. They never learn what a toy is, enjoy the gentle caress of a hand or get to run in the grass. Dogs and cats are very social and need interaction from people and other animals in order to thrive.

I am Conservative and generally oppose increased government regulations, but in this case these regulations are imperative to prevent animal cruelty.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

I know that this bill isn't perfect and it does cause some stress on the TDLR, but animals' lives are literally at stake. Also, it will help prevent unknowing families from purchasing ill puppies that come from puppy mills.

I would like to see the bill strengthened and breeders with 5 or more females are required to get licensed instead of 11 females. Could there be a requirement of breeders to show documentation of veterinary care online instead of TDLR employees having to do that onsite? These breeders have to sell their puppies somewhere and they generally do it at trade days, online or through pet stores. Possibly have a registry through those organizations to identify the breeders to make inspections easier? I am aware these are not perfect either, but I am required to follow certain rules in my profession and we could possibly use examples of those registries to apply to the breeders.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree