

**From:** [Elizabeth Jones](#)  
**To:** [Trisha Linebarger](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:11:32 PM

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From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission  
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:08:53 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: Corey

Last Name: Thompson

Title: Executive Director

Organization you are affiliated with: Friends of Tri-City Animal Shelter,  
501c3

Email: director@tricityfriends.org

City: Duncanville

State: Texas

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

Friends of Tri-City Animal Shelter is strongly opposed to repealing the Texas Dog & Cat Breeder Law. This action would undo the bipartisan work of numerous experts, agencies, and animal welfare organizations who have been fighting for years to protect animals across our state.

Repealing these measures would allow breeders with animal cruelty convictions to become licensed to breed, buy, and sell dogs and cats in Texas. This is wholly unacceptable.

A repeal would also mean an increase in large-scale seizures. The leadership at our municipal shelter has worked cases like these for decades. The cruelty and inhumane conditions they have witnessed and removed animals from is appalling. These seizures are also costly to taxpayers and draining on the non-profits who must fill the gaps in both funding and manpower to care for hundreds of animals removed at a time. Large scale breeding operations must be inspected before they are licensed.

Texas is the 8th largest state for breeders, but only about 25 percent of these breeders fall under federal oversight by the USDA. Our State must step in to provide this crucial level of accountability for breeders.

Finally, Texas has a responsibility to protect not only the animals in these breeding facilities, but also citizens who purchase these dogs and cats.

Consumers do not want to support puppy mills, nor do they want to purchase sick animals from the individuals who knowingly sell them. However, without the State's oversight, they do not have all the tools necessary to make informed decisions.

Not only can TLDR's Licensed Breeders Program not be "safely eliminated" -- it would be unethical on the part of the State, inhumane for the animals it protects, and reprehensible to the thousands of us who work day in and day out to prevent these types of cruelty.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

Friends of Tri-City Animal Shelter strongly recommends strengthening the TDLR's Licensed Breeders Program in order to prevent even more cruelty to animals.

Our recommendations are to remove the unenforceable requirement of licensing only breeders selling twenty or more puppies/kittens per year and to lower the breeding females requirement from 11 to five. Breeders must be held accountable for the basic standards of care that all animals deserve; licensing and inspections is the correct way to enforce those responsibilities.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree