

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Trisha Linebarger](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Thursday, August 13, 2020 2:41:46 PM

From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov [<mailto:sunset@sunset.texas.gov>] On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 12:51 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: Karen

Last Name: Westmoreland

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with: retired president of Cowtown Loves Animal Shelter Pets (CLASP) after serving 12 yrs

Email:

City: Fort Worth

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: I have been involved with shelters and rescues for 15 yrs. It is unreal how many dogs including "purebred" end up in the shelters for the same reason that any dog does. Owners die or have health issues, a puppy grows up and isn't cute and fun anymore, hardships cause owners to move where they can no longer have or afford pets, and many more reasons including irresponsible owners who don't get the dogs altered or care for them properly. Shelters and rescues everywhere are already overfull and animals are being euthanized daily and you want to abolish the Licensed Breeder Program so there will be hundreds more out to be euthanized? Back yard breeders are the worst. Maybe you should visit your local shelters and some of the breeders pushing for this abolishment and get a TRUE look at how the animals are treated and killed. Females live their lives in kennels and many never even touch the ground. When they are too old to produce, the breeder either kills them, turns them out as strays or take to the shelter to be euthanized. How can you in your heart believe that abolishing this law will make things better? We always hear how crooked lawmakers are and how their vote is bought off. If this is true of this group, then you have never had or truly loved a dog or cat because the last thing you would want to do is cause so much suffering for so many animals with no voice of their own to beg you not to.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: If you want to really make a difference, then you should strengthen the Licensed Breeder Program to stop even more backyard breeders and even set it up where it is permanent to prevent it from ever being abolished. Cities have come a long ways in the protection of animals and many groups have fought hard to make this happen. I am sure someone fought hard for this program also. Going backwards is not only non-productive, it is not ethical. Please pass and strengthen laws and programs to help animals, not abolish laws and programs that will condemn thousands of animals to a life of cruelty. And yes, it will be thousands over a period of time....

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree