



SUPPORT THE MINNESOTA COMPANION ANIMAL BOARD

Companion animals need a home in state government

BILL Senate File (S.F.) 3481 — Sen. Carrie Ruud, chief author
House File (H.F.) 3584 — Rep. John Lesch, chief author

DESCRIPTION

Establish a Companion Animal Board (CAB) to provide expertise in and oversight of companion animal issues in Minnesota. “Companion animal” (includes pets) is defined in Minn. Stat. § 343.20 subd. 6. Bill excludes farmed and agricultural animals.

A COMMON SENSE APPROACH

Creation of a Companion Animal Board is a smart and balanced solution that will provide **expertise, efficiency, and value.**

- Provide expertise on companion animal issues, with an understanding of the role these animals play with human health.
- Oversee a centralized and collaborative approach for delivery of companion animal welfare services and resources throughout Minnesota.
- Free up the MN Board of Animal Health to focus on its core mission of control and prevention of dangerous animal diseases. (Authority for animal disease control remains with the Board of Animal Health.)

POWERS AND DUTIES

- Enforce laws pertaining to licensing, regulation, and welfare of companion animals.
- Be an informational resource for government officials, nonprofits, and the public.
- Assist with companion animal welfare services and resources.

COMPANION ANIMALS IN MINNESOTA

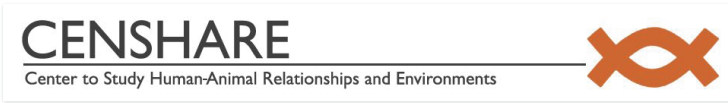
The importance of companion animals in the lives of Minnesotans is significant.

- As of 2018, the pet industry was over \$72 billion (up from \$17 billion in 1994).
- More families in Minnesota have a dog or cat than children.
- Companion animals improve human lives, providing enjoyment to individuals and families as well as health benefits to the elderly (keeping them engaged), veterans (PTSD), disabled (assistance), autistic children (comfort), and others with chronic diseases such as depression, anxiety, and cardiac problems.

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Minnesota Humane Society
founded 1869

