

February 16, 2022

To Whom it May Concern,

Please accept letter of opposition for House File 208 and Senate File 73 to create a Companion Animal Board (CAB) in Minnesota. I am a nationally Certified Animal Control Officer and nationally Certified Animal Cruelty Investigator. I have been working in Animal Welfare for the last 22 years and have been an Animal Control Officer, Animal Shelter Lead, and District Field Lead Animal Control Officer with a specialty in animal crimes and cruelty investigations for the last 11 years. I have worked extensively with Law Enforcement in Minnesota and around the country on animal crimes and associated collateral crimes.

I am opposed to the creation of a Companion Animal Board being created primarily due to the fact that it is a regulatory Board and not a governmental agency. A government agency bill is currently being drafted that would resolve the issues that the CAB bill purports to be able to address. An additional regulatory board such as CAB, would only muddy the waters between already established departments such as the Board of Animal Health. By creating rules and more requirements without the legal enforcement capability to actually follow through and resolve the issues only passes the buck onto already overburdened law enforcement agencies. A Companion Animal Board is unnecessary at this time and the bill that is forthcoming will address and be able to resolve the actual enforcement issues related to domestic animals in this state; while working collaboratively with already established boards and agencies.

I do agree that Companion and Domestic animal issues in Minnesota do need to have a "place" in the statutes, but I do not feel that creating a duplicative regulatory "Board" is the way that this should be done.

Thank you for your consideration,



Jena Wasche  
Minnesota Lead Animal Control Officer