



February 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Ruff Start Rescue to express support for House File 208 and Senate File 73.

Ruff Start Rescue is a foster-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit companion animal rescue that primarily serves communities throughout the State of Minnesota, as well as states in the south with severe pet overpopulation. We rescue stray, neglected, abandoned, and surrendered dogs and cats as well as ferrets, guinea pigs, rabbits, and other critters. Most of our work is accomplished by a complex network of volunteers, fosters, and supporters, all of whom come together to save thousands of animals each year.

Ruff Start Rescue is on the frontlines of animal rescue and care and has seen the growing needs of companion animals and their families throughout Minnesota. We have also seen the growth of the animal rescue industry, trying to meet the demand of people and their pets.

We want to work within an industry that has the highest standards. We believe establishment of the Companion Animal Board is necessary to help create those standards and provide proper oversight of all animal rescue organizations in Minnesota. Currently, there is no state agency in Minnesota with the knowledge, expertise, and qualifications to understand the needs of pets and rescue organizations.

Further, we believe the Companion Animal Board will be able to work collaboratively with nonprofits, local governments, and the private sector on other issues, including leading discussions and coordination of services for companion animals such as statewide spay-neuter services, access to affordable veterinary care, animal shelter management, and more.

The importance of companion animals in the lives of Minnesotans is significant. A Companion Animal Board with specific expertise in companion animal issues is necessary in Minnesota.

Ruff Start Rescue respectfully asks you to support the Companion Animal Board bill, HF 208 / SF 73.

Thank you,
Azure Davis,
Executive Director, Ruff Start Rescue
azure@ruffstartrescue.org

cc: Representative Sandra Erickson 15A
Senator Andrew Mathews 15