

People & Pets together

February 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of People & Pets Together to express support for House File 208 and Senate File 73, establishing a Minnesota Companion Animal Board.

People & Pets Together was founded in 2009 in response to the global economic downturn and heartbreaking stories of people who were forced to give up their pets due to financial hardship. Our mission is to support the relationships that people have with their pets, and to prevent the surrender of pets during times of economic crisis.

People & Pets Together helps families by operating a pet food shelf in Minneapolis, by providing pet food to food shelves in the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area, with a veterinary assistance grant program, and through other programs to keep pets healthy and in loving homes. We work closely with other nonprofits and private businesses to achieve these efforts.

We fully support the Companion Animal Board because the needs we see are not limited to Minneapolis alone. A state agency, such as the Companion Animal Board, will be able to work with communities throughout Minnesota and provide leadership on numerous people-pet issues — from discussing and defining needs and problems to educating the public about responsible pet ownership to collaborating with nonprofits and others for delivery of services and resources to assist pet owners, including access to pet food, affordable veterinary care, necessary shelter, spay-neuter services, humane euthanasia, and more. Further, the Companion Animal Board's grant-making program, funded by a specialty license plate, will award grants to non-profits, veterinary clinics and practices, local governments, and postsecondary institutions to assist in implementation of services in Minnesota.

These issues are real and growing. Through the Companion Animal Board, Minnesota can lead the way in truly understanding animal welfare and the relationship between pets and people.

Please support House File 208 and Senate File 73.

Sincerely,

Nick Atwood
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Cc: Representative Jim Davnie
Senator Patricia Torres Ray

People & Pets Together
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