



February 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Pause 4 Paws to express support for House File 208 and Senate File 73, establishing a Minnesota Companion Animal Board to allow the State of Minnesota to more effectively plan for and respond to the welfare of companion animals and support the efforts of those who care for these animals.

Since 2011, Pause 4 Paws (P4P) has led the effort to provide emergency funds that improve the lives of cats and dogs in need throughout Minnesota. Pause 4 Paws directly supports numerous animal rescues and sanctuaries in Minnesota. Most animal rescues are small, volunteer-based community organizations that do not have staff available to spend time fundraising. P4P worked on behalf of these organizations and has distributed over \$500,000 to these beneficiaries since our inception. In doing so, the rescues we supported have saved over 46,000 dogs and cats and spay and neutered nearly 31,500 animals.

In our work, we see firsthand the growing needs of pets and their human companions throughout Minnesota. The Companion Animal Board (CAB) can work collaboratively with public, private and nonprofit sectors to promote resources and lead statewide discussions to define community problems and needs, such as statewide affordable spay-neuter services, access to affordable veterinary care, and more. The Companion Animal Board's grant-making program to award grants to non-profits, veterinary clinic and practices, local government, and academic institutions to assist in implementation of services is needed in Minnesota.

The importance of companion animals in the lives of Minnesotans is significant and growing. Current research shows that more than 70% of Minnesota households include a pet. As the industry and importance of companion animals in people's lives grows, so too do the issues and problems involving these animals. A Companion Animal Board with specific expertise in companion animal issues, including companion animal health and welfare, is necessary in Minnesota.

Please support House File 208 and Senate File 73.

Thank you,

Jill Goldstein  
Executive Director  
Pause 4 Paws  
PO Box 41028 / Plymouth, MN 55441  
jill@mediationmn.com

Cc: Representative Ginny Klevorn, District 44A  
Senator Ann Johnson Stewart, District 44