



February 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

Tri-County Humane Society supports House File 208 and Senate File 73, establishing a Minnesota Companion Animal Board to provide expertise in and oversight of companion animal issues in Minnesota.

Tri-County Humane Society (TCHS) operates as an independent nonprofit open admissions animal shelter in St. Cloud, MN. The Society has been providing quality services to people and animals in Central Minnesota since 1974. In 2021, TCHS had an 95% placement rate assisting 4,498 animals in finding their new homes and over 3,099 surgeries were performed in our in-house surgery suite. Additionally, our services include care for homeless animals, pet lost and found, and humane education. We also provide knowledgeable answers to questions regarding pet care, behavior, and many other animal related issues.

We are on the front lines and see the need for a Companion Animal Board (CAB) to provide oversight, communication, and outreach on issues related to companion animals and those who care for these animals. Of great importance, the CAB will provide the necessary expertise to properly enforce the commercial dog and cat breeder law and the kennel and dealer law (licensing of animal shelters) — and any other regulations applicable to companion animals proposed in the future. With its expertise in animal welfare, the CAB will be able to effectively interpret and execute companion animal laws and train personnel who are responsible for fulfilling the duties of these laws.

The CAB will also work collaboratively with public, private and nonprofit sectors to define community problems and promote resources, such as professional information on animal shelter management and guidelines for animal care.

The importance of companion animals in the lives of Minnesotans is significant. A Companion Animal Board with *expertise specific to companion animals* is needed in Minnesota.

Tri-County Humane Society strongly supports House File 208 and Senate File 73. I respectfully ask that you support this bill.

Thank you,

Vicki Davis
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Cc: Senator Aric Putnam, District 14
Representative Dan Walgamott, District 14B