

**House Government Accountability and Oversight
Committee
HB 506, Revise Law Governing High Volume Dog
Breeders
Opponent Testimony by Beth Sheehan
March 7, 2018**

Good morning, Chair Blessing, Vice Chair Reineke, and Ranking Minority Member Clyde,

I am Beth Sheehan, a Hamilton County resident, who represents a grassroots organization of dog and cat advocates and engaged, Ohio voters, Paws and the Law. We oppose to HB 506, Revise Law Governing High Volume Breeders.

We are quite concerned about the miserable, insufficient standards of animal care this bill mandates. These austere yardsticks effect not only the good health and wellbeing of the animals, but also severely impact the unwitting Ohio families that purchase these crudely cared for animals, sometimes sold at prices of up to \$4,000.

Let me explain. First, HB 506, aims to “provide appropriate veterinary care, including vaccinations, parasite control, and prompt treatment for any disease, illness, or injury.” This language allows the large volume breeders to provide veterinary care themselves. A lay person is simply ill-equipped, untrained, and unknowledgeable to adequately handle the various veterinary, medical problems that might arise in a large scale breeders operations.

Veterinary care of large volumes of animals, sold at top dollar, is not a “do-it-yourself” operation. An unchecked respiratory

condition, for instance, could rapidly spread through the entire operation. How would the breeder cope with such an enormous, costly veterinary problem?

Second, “access to potable water” is not the same as “continuous access to potable water”. Some dogs have medical problems that are severely exacerbated by not having continuous access to drinkable water. Also, not having access to water is one of the few criteria that county dog wardens have to designate an animal is extremely neglected.

Ohio has been steadily climbing over the years to its current position as 27th in its national ratings for protections of its dogs and cats. Before that, Ohio used to be known as the “wild west” of animal protections.

HB 506 aims to turn those good reports upside down.

I strongly encourage you to VOTE NO on HB 506. This bill does not intend to properly protect the health and wellbeing of animals bred in large scale operations, nor does it safeguard unsuspecting families, who incorrectly believe that there are dependable, humane reins on breeding puppies in Ohio.