

## Linworth Animal Hospital

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### Written Testimony on Senate Bill 232 Senate Agriculture Committee

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Chair Hackett, Vice Chair Hoagland, Ranking Minority Member O'Brien, and members of the Senate Agriculture Committee, I am Dawn Truesdale, co-owner of Linworth Animal Hospital, and on behalf of myself and our staff, we respectfully urge this committee to support S.B. 232, a bill that will allow veterinarians to receive 2 CE credits per 4 hours of donated time performing spay and neuter surgeries for non-profit or animal sheltering organizations.

Linworth Animal Hospital is a small animal general practice in Worthington, Ohio that has been in business for the last 50 years. I have been with Linworth Animal Hospital since 1997, rising through the ranks from student to assistant to associate veterinarian, and finally to co-owner in 2007.

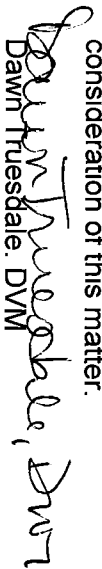
In my time in the Veterinary field, I have performed countless spay/neuter surgeries in a variety of different capacities. As a veterinary student I traveled to many low income areas in the United States with Remote Area Medicine, a group based in Tennessee, providing free spay/neuters to the residents in those areas. After graduation from The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine, I completed a small animal rotating internship at Michigan Veterinary Specialists near Detroit where one of my duties was to provide free spay/neuters to several rescue groups in the greater Detroit area. Finally, in my current practice I am performing spay/neuter procedures several times weekly, including offering services to several select rescue groups at a discounted rate.

Spaying and neutering animals remains the single most important way to maintain population control and minimize euthanasia of unplanned and unwanted animals. Hospitals such as those operated by Dr. DeHaan are making great strides in accomplishing this goal especially for groups such as feral cats, shelter animals, and low income communities who in the past had no options for affordable spay/neuter.

Based on the collective experience at Linworth Animal Hospital, we recognize what an enormous educational opportunity it could be for veterinarians to have the option to have clinical experience with experienced high quality high volume spay and neuter surgeons (HQHVSN). Providing this opportunity for veterinarians to work side by side with HQHVSN surgeons provides education in techniques that allow for faster surgery times while maintaining proper tissue handling. Indeed, witnessing firsthand the high standard of care in HQHVSN clinics would provide a quality educational experience that could not be provided by the standard webinar or other non-clinical methods of educational opportunities. As Dr. deHaan stated in her testimony, these are excellent skills for all veterinarians to learn, and their donated time helped them with technique and confidence that benefited all their subsequent surgical patients.

I believe providing the option for clinical, pro-bono CEs will not only enhance the skills of veterinarians who choose this type of educational opportunity – it will provide more subsidized care to and spread awareness of those in need. The benefit of pro-bono CEs that provide hands on opportunities for learning and giving back to the community are not new to a variety of professions in the state of Ohio. There are 14 other state boards that approve pro-bono CEs, including the Supreme Court for attorneys and the Ohio Medical Association for physicians. I believe it is time for veterinarians for have this option along with other service professions in this state.

The benefits of passing this bill would be for both sides- the animal shelters that need the donated services, and the veterinarians that will be providing them. On behalf of myself and the staff of Linworth Animal Hospital, we strongly urge passage of S.B. 232. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

  
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