

Ohio House Commerce and Labor Committee

HB 67, Veterinarian Continuing Education

for Spay-Neuter Services

Beth Sheehan, proponent testimony

May 1, 2019

Good afternoon, Chair Manning, Vice Chair Dean, Ranking Minority Member Lepore-Hagan, and distinguished members of the House Commerce and Labor Committee.

I am Beth Sheehan, a Hamilton County resident, who stands before you today, representing a broad, grassroots coalition of thousands of dog and cat advocates¹ and engaged, Ohio voters, who enthusiastically support the passage of HB 67, Veterinarian Continuing Education for Neutering Services.

First, do any Boards now give CE's for pro bono work?

Yes, awarding CE's to licensed professionals for recognized pro bono work is already a well established norm by at least **14 Ohio, distinguished, licensing boards:**

- The Supreme Court of Ohio that licenses attorneys
- The State Medical Board of Ohio
- The State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy
- The Ohio State Dental Board
- The Ohio Board of Nursing
- The Ohio Vision Professionals Board

- The State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy
- The Ohio Board of Psychology
- The Ohio State Chiropractic Board
- The Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers Board
- The Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board
- The Ohio Chemical Dependency Professionals Board
- Ohio Emergency Medical Services
- The Speech and Hearing Professionals Board

Second, do other states give veterinarians CE's for pro bono work?

Yes, California, New Jersey, New York, Oklahoma, and Virginia award CE's to veterinarians for pro bono spay-neuter.

On a national level, opportunity to earn CE's for spay-neuter work is already in place. The ASPCA has a RACE-approved program, which means it is approved for veterinarians in every state. "The veterinarian is actively working or volunteering in a mid or high-volume spay-neuter environment."

Also, nationally, the **American Veterinary Medical Association** offers CE's for three **webinars on spay-neuter**. Watching one webinar and completing a short, online assessment afterwards "earns 1.0 credit of AVMA CE". The webinars are: Canine Gonadectomy: A Roundtable Discussion (1hour, 1 CE), Spay/Neuter of Dogs and Cats: The Theriogenology Perspective (40 minutes, 1 CE, Spay/Neuter of Dogs and Cats: The Shelter Perspective (1 hour, 1 CE)

Also important, animal shelters and control agencies are required in approximately 32 states to provide for the sterilization of all dogs or cats they transfer or adopt out ... **Ohio is not one of them.**

Third, why issue continuing education credits for spay-neuter surgeries when veterinarians already know how to perform these medical procedures?

1. **Amy Strabala, DVM**, of UCAN, a non-profit in Hamilton County,

“working in a high-quality, high-volume spay/neuter clinic is an excellent learning experience for veterinarians, they discover **new techniques and "best practices" for how to perform surgeries faster and safer that is not currently taught in veterinary school.**”

2. **Melanie DeHaan, DVM**, founder and Medical Director for Shelter Outreach Services of Ohio, a non-profit HQHVSN hospital

(Volunteering in HQHVSN) “also provides those veterinarians with an opportunity to **learn about programs (such as TNR) that they are not exposed to in private practice.**”

“HQHVSN is a specialized form of veterinary medicine. **High volume spay and neuter surgeons are skilled in certain techniques that allow for faster surgery times, and better tissue handling skills.**”

“I have trained many vet students and private practice veterinarians in high volume spay and neuter techniques. **Every one of the veterinarians that I have trained learned skills that they took with them, and that helped them with technique and confidence that benefited all their subsequent surgical patients.**”

3. **Lee Schrader, DVM**, Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (Small Animal) and Executive Director, the Fayette Regional Humane Society

“The bill will ... **expose them to the realities of shelter medicine ... Many new veterinary school graduates are not highly experienced in spay/ neuter surgery, as veterinary colleges see very few unsterilized animals.**”

“I believe that the knowledge and understanding that these veterinarians will gain goes far beyond the 2 continuing education units that they will receive.”

4. Barbara Hodges, DVM, The Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association

“Veterinarians can gain substantial knowledge, ... including learning new peri-operative procedures, other effective anesthesia protocols and more efficient surgical techniques. For example, pediatric or early-age sterilization techniques are not universally taught in veterinary schools, however they are routinely performed at spay/neuter clinics.”

“Additionally, there are a wide range of educational resources that veterinarians are exposed to ... For example, in 2016, the Association of Shelter Veterinarians published newly updated veterinary medical care guidelines for spay/neuter programs, including those performing high-quality high-volume spay/neuter (HQHVSN) and these guidelines are now commonly referenced at spay/neuter programs nationwide.”

“Finally, new scientific perspectives on sterilization are still emerging and that information is typically shared among veterinary professionals participating in spay/neuter programs.”

Fourth, why should the members of the House Commerce and Labor Committee VOTE YES on HB 67?

**County Commissions Move Money
from General Fund to Dog and Kennel Fund**

Representative	County	2018	2017	2016	Shelter Dogs Spay-Neuter at Adoption
Gayle Manning	Lorain	\$0	\$0	\$0	Y
Bill Dean	Madison Clark Greene	M \$14,500 C \$14,500 G \$0	M \$18,540 C \$18,540 G \$0	M \$14,500 C \$14,500 G \$0	M Y C Y G Y
Michele Lepore-Hagan	Mahoning	\$0	\$0	\$0	Y
Juanita O. Brent	Cuyahoga				Y
Anthony DeVitis	Summit	\$87,345.24 \$350,000 * \$110,000 **	\$43,000 \$350,000 * \$110,000 **	\$27,000 \$350,000 * \$110,000 **	Y
Jay Edwards	Meigs Athens Vinton Washington	M \$70,000 A \$32,381.83 W \$0	M \$60,000 A \$32,500 W \$0	M \$35,000 A \$0 W \$0	M not always A not always V N
Ron Hood	Hocking Morgan Athens Fairfield Muskingum Pickaway	H \$0 Mo \$0 A \$32,381.83 F \$0 P \$0	H \$0 Mo \$0 A \$32,500 F \$0 P \$0	H \$0 Mo \$0 A \$0 F \$0 P \$0	H N F Y M Y P not always
Don Jones	Carroll Harrison Noble Washington Belmont	C \$0 H \$0 N \$29,421.62 W \$0 B \$109,000	C \$0 H \$75,000 N \$20,785.48 W \$0 B \$207,190.50	C \$0 H \$40,000 N \$14,890 W \$0 B \$68,300	C N H N W B
Mary Lightbody	Franklin	\$3,011,000	\$2,750,000	\$2,125,000	Y
Thomas Patton	Cuyahoga				Y

Representative	County	2018	2017	2016	Shelter Dogs Spay-Neuter at Adoption
Craig Riedel	Defiance Paulding Van Wert Auglaize	D \$25,000 P \$0 V A \$0	D \$25,000 P \$0 V A \$0	D \$25,000 P \$0 V A \$0	D Y P V A
Michael Sheehy	Lucas	\$350,000	\$450,000	\$692,777	
Kent Smith	Cuyahoga				Y
Dick Stein	Huron Lorain	H \$0 L \$0	H \$0 L \$0	H \$0 L \$0	H N L Y
Bride Rose Sweeney	Cuyahoga				Y

* debt paid on facility



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HB 67 is a win for Ohio! It's bill that doesn't cost anything. It doesn't force compliance. It has no burdensome regulations.

Yet, it is a life saver and a money saver, particularly in Ohio, rural counties that are pressed for funds.

Ohio, county governments pay a lot for dog warden services, caring and housing the dogs, spaying-neutering dogs, veterinary care of those animals, and euthanizing and disposing of those dogs.

Each animal that is spayed or neutered means brighter, financial days ahead for county and shelter coffers.

With the passage of HB 67, we recognize the compassionate, altruistic work of our veterinarians; we hasten fiscal efficiency of our county governments; we attain a higher standard of humanity for ourselves.

1AARF Radio Ohio; Angels for Animals; Animal Pawtectors; Ashtabula County Animal Protective League; The Black Dog Food Pantry; Dogs Unlimited; Fairfield County CARES (Citizens for Animal Rights and Ethical Standards); Falcon Animal Rescue; Family Puppy Boycott-Puppy Mill Awareness of NW Ohio; Harrison County Dog Pound Volunteers; Hartman's Hounds; Friends of Fido MCDP; Heaven Can Wait; Humane Society of Richland County; Joseph's Legacy; Justice for Herbie; Kecia Mathys; Max's Animal Mission; National Animal Shelter Volunteers; Never Muzzled; Nitro's Ohio Army; North Coast Boxer Rescue; Ohio American Eskimo Rescue; Ohio Coalition of Dog Advocates; One of a Kind Pet Rescue; Our Mission Dog

Rescue; Paws and the Law; Pawz 2 Adopt, Austintown; Peppermint Pig Animal Rescue; A Perfect Match; Pinealope Animal Rescue; Rescue Village; Rose's Rescue; Ross County Humane Society; Safe Harbor Animal Rescue, Vermillion; Sanctuary for Senior Dogs; Save Ohio Strays; Soul Connections of Central Ohio; Summit County Shelter; TNR of Warren, Inc.; Tuscarawas County Humane Society; Underdog Society of Knox County; Vote 4 Animals Help Chained Dogs, Dayton; West Side Cats, WolfSpirits Toy Breed Rescue; and 911 Dog Rescue Inc. / Amy's Adoptables,

