



Paws Animal Shelter

—OWNED AND OPERATED BY:—

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY HUMANE ASSOCIATION, INC.

1535 W. US HWY 36 • URBANA OHIO 43078 • 937-653-6233

29 March 2025

Dear Chairman Creech, Vice Chair Newman, Ranking Member Miller and members of the committee

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of House Bill (HB) 148. My name is Connie Strobbe, and I'm the President of the Board of Directors of the Champaign County Humane Association, Inc., which owns and operates Paws Animal Shelter in Urbana. I have volunteered at Paws Animal Shelter since 2017, which has included fostering many cats and kittens over the years. I strongly support House Bill 148.

Our organization has been fortunate to receive an Ohio Pet Fund spay/neuter grant every year since I have been on the board, and this is a huge help in covering these critical costs. However, the costs for these surgeries goes up every year, and the grant amounts have simply not kept up. In 2024, we received a \$1,500 grant, for which we are very appreciative. However, our total cost for spaying and neutering that year was \$9,890.

The lack of low-cost spay/neuter options in Champaign County and the surrounding counties has resulted in a population explosion, particularly of cats. To address this problem, we started working with a local veterinary office in Urbana to offer 25 low-cost vouchers once a month to the public, and we typically sell out of these within two hours. We have to line up private individuals to underwrite half the cost of the vouchers, so we can sell them at a price that is affordable to the local population. A veterinary office in Clark County contacted us to set up a similar program for their area. This is a clear indication of the urgent need for more funding to support spaying and neutering, for both shelters and rescues as well as low-income families.

I strongly urge you to support HB 148, and help all the homeless dogs and cats in this state, and the shelters and rescues that are doing their absolute best to save as many of these animals as possible. Thank you!!

Sincerely,

Connie Strobbe, President
Board of Directors
Paws Animal Shelter