Harrison County Dog Pound

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Cindi Yanez, Dog Warden
Alicia Bertolino, Asst. Dog Warden

February 7, 2026

Dear Chairman Blessing, Vice Chair Roegner, Ranking Member DeMora and members of the committee;

Ohio has a pet overpopulation problem and desperately needs more funding for spay and neuter. House Bill 148 is an easy, no cost way to support the community of dog wardens and nonprofits that are trying to manage the problem. Harrison County, specifically, has an extra problem because in addition to people who don't want to spay/neuter, for those who would, the cost to do so has become prohibitive. Grants, such as those provided by the Ohio Pet Fund have enabled us to spay/neuter countless dogs that might not be otherwise altered.

Our organization has received an Ohio Pet Fund spay-neuter grant in the past, which was very helpful in trying to get our homeless pets adopted. People are more likely to adopt spayed or neutered animals, and accomplishing this ensures that there won't be unwanted litters that take up manpower and resources in our community. Spay-neuter funding will save many lives! Additionally, as a county dog pound and not a shelter, the County Commission provides no financial assistance to get the dogs that come into our facility altered. Without help from an organization like the Ohio Pet Fund and the non-profit that works tirelessly to raise the funds to enable us to provide this, many of the dogs that are adopted from our facility might not be altered which would continue to add to the overpopulation in Ohio.

Please support House Bill 148 with a yes vote in the Ways and Means committee.

Thank you,

Cindi Yanez, Dog Warden