Friends of Stark Pound Inc., is a 501(c)(3) non-profit

Dear Chairman Blessing and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor HB 148.

My name is Carrie Wiesen, I am Board President of Friends of Stark County, Inc. I would like to mention a few reasons as to why I am in favor of this important bill being passed. Ohio Pet Fund does a tremendous job in helping so many, including our group.

We were a very grateful recipient of a grant from Ohio Pet Fund, a grant that will go towards the cost of spaying and neutering the **homeless dogs at the Stark County Dog Warden Division.** We are a non-profit organization that helps to fund the medical needs of the dogs at the SCDW while they are waiting for new homes. All dogs leave altered, microchipped, vaccines, rabies shot, and free training sessions. We rely on donations from the community, and funds from events, to maintain the funds to continue our mission.

The rise of homeless pets is astounding, seems there is no end in sight, as an example we had 1749 dogs pass through the shelter last year, a little more than half were redeemed, and the rest adopted into new homes, about 662 had to be altered, that costs an average of $136 a dog, so, there is definitely a need for help when it comes to trying to control the overpopulation of unwanted pets. I do hope you will consider passing this important bill for Ohio Pets Fund, this will enable them to help many more shelters, communities with spay/neuter programs.

Thank you for letting me share my thoughts on this matter, and I for one would donate while doing taxes for this great cause!

Kindest regards,

Carrie Wiesen

Board President

Friends of Stark Pound