

February 14, 2012

Please REJECT AB346

It will only serve to take Wisconsin's care of
stray dogs back into the Dark Ages...



This dog barely has room to stand in his chicken wire hovel.

If your dog went stray, would you want him held in a place like this?

People of Wisconsin say, "No!"



Does this appear adequate to you?



These dogs are chained and have no access to exercise. If they get food and water, they are fortunate. Food costs money and care takes time.

This little dog hasn't had food or water for a few days. The temperature is sub—zero but there is no straw or other bedding for his protection. But who knows? He's being provided "care" by an AB 346 sanctioned "Animal Control."



Please reject AB 346...

Keep a level playing field

- Dogs do not know “political subdivisions” when they go stray.
- Conditions for stray dogs should be adequate for all.
- “House pet” dogs may not survive the bitter temperatures or scorching heat of a sub-standard animal control.
- Humane organizations and animal shelters in Wisconsin already provide these services in many Wisconsin communities. They are doing a great job and should not have to compete with “for profit” UNREGULATED stray hold facilities.
- Not regulating Animal Controls will lead to inconsistent care of stray dogs across political subdivisions.
- What happens to dogs in unregulated facilities once their seven day stray hold expires?
- For individuals and vendors providing UNREGULATED animal control service will have a “bottom line” driven motive to provide the bare minimum for stray dogs.
- Where is the logic in a person or business providing a service to government for PAYMENT but rejecting the government from issuing a license and expecting reasonable performance for the service?
- In the case of animal control, the stray hold services being provided are for living creatures that are usually highly valued by their owners.
- There IS NO definition for “kennel license.” The door will be wide open for abusers to write their own definition.

Maintain disease control

- Animal care professionals know how to identify the stages of rabies infection and how to deal with it when it presents.
- Unregulated and unlicensed facilities may be run by people who do not understand the spread and control of disease. Do you want your dog exposed should he or she “go stray”?
- Regulation provides reasonable protection and standards of care that help to diminish disease control.

We’ve “been there” and “done that”

- Thyme and Sage Ranch—Richland County. This case cost humane organizations THOUSANDS of dollars to clean up.
- Erv Stabane—Calumet County. This shameful case exposed the horror of an unregulated facility and again, humane organization were left to “clean up” the mess on their dime.
- Local governments can appreciate that the State of Wisconsin has trained professionals inspecting their animal control facilities to insure that stray dogs are given proper care.

Why “fix” that which is not broken?

- Act 90 was passed UNANIMOUSLY in every reviewing committee and by the Assembly and Senate in 2008.
- The law has just gone into effect in June of 2011. It is working! Give it more than a year before “fixing” it.
- Those who have proceeded through the Act 90 regulatory process including licensing and inspection feel that process and the current law and administrative rules are FAIR and provide suitable care for dogs in Wisconsin.
- Act 90 is a growing program that has, to date, performed extremely well. This is NOT the time to make hasty “fixes” to problems that do not exist simply to appease a few. Proponents of AB 346 want to make money by vendoring a government service but do not want to buy a license, be inspected or operate under standards that are considered reasonable by Wisconsin citizens and by other regulated entities.

Do you believe that local governments can do a better job of regulating their “for profit” animal control vendors? If so, please take another look at the photos on the other side of this page! These were conditions in a facility used to house stray hounds prior to Act 90. PLEASE do not take Wisconsin and its pets back to the Dark Ages. Reject AB346

Respectfully Submitted by:

Eilene K. Ribbens

February 14, 2012

Executive Director—Sheboygan County Humane Society

(Proudly providing animal control services to Sheboygan County for over 40 years)

Vice President—Wisconsin Federated Humane Societies, Inc

(We have served animal shelters and humane societies in Wisconsin since 1929)

Committee Member—DATCP Advisory Committee on Act 90 Rules / ATCP 16

(Witness to the fair, equitable and reasonable process of creating and enforcing ACT 90)