

## Boger, Linda

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**From:** Martha Boden <MBoden@spcatampabay.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 09, 2017 6:35 PM  
**To:** Long, Janet C; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Morroni, John; Gerard, Pat; Welch, Kenneth; Justice, Charlie  
**Cc:** Brightwell, Doug; Bennett, John A; Woodard, Mark S; Brent Bardell; Scott Riley; Rizal Lopez  
**Subject:** Continued Support of Proposed Ordinance Changes to Chapter 14, Article II

Dear Honorable Commissioners,

Though I contacted you in December, since the proposed ordinance language has again been slightly revised, I wanted to convey that SPCA Tampa Bay remains strongly in support of the changes.

For all the reasons outlined below, I hope you will agree it's time to move this forward for our community.

Sincerely,

Martha Boden, PMP, CAWA  
CEO

**spca** Tampa Bay

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**From:** Martha Boden  
**Sent:** Friday, December 23, 2016 5:47 AM  
**To:** JanetCLong@pinellascounty.org; deggers@pinellascounty.org; kseel@pinellascounty.org; jmorrone@pinellascounty.org; pgerard@pinellascounty.org; kwelch@pinellascounty.org; cjustice@pinellascounty.org  
**Cc:** Brightwell, Doug <wbrightwell@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Bennett, John A <JABennett@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Mark Woodard <mwoodard@pinellascounty.org>; Brent Bardell <BBardell@spcatampabay.org>; Scott Riley <SRiley@spcatampabay.org>; Rizal Lopez <RLopez@spcatampabay.org>  
**Subject:** Support of Proposed Ordinance Changes to Chapter 14, Article II

Dear Honorable Commissioners,

SPCA Tampa Bay, a non-profit organization providing animal welfare services in Pinellas County for over 75 years, is in favor of the proposed changes to Chapter 14, Article II of the Pinellas County Code. As one of the oldest and largest animal shelters in this community, we are committed to addressing the challenges facing Pinellas pets. We actively supported the conversation surrounding the proposed pet dealer and kennel ordinance revisions, and sent two senior staff members to the recent workshop on the ordinance.

The proposed ordinance changes allow Pinellas County to clearly define what is meant by “responsible pet breeding.” In our community, a community that sees 50 or more pets facing homelessness each day, responsible pet breeding is something that can't be objectively distinguished with the ordinance as it stands.

The proposed amendments allow our county Animal Services agency to play a more active role in supporting the local pet breeding industry. Responsible breeders can and should easily meet the standards required to ensure they are selling healthy pets. Asking a breeder to demonstrate observation of those standards is not a hardship.

Animal shelters and rescue groups throughout Pinellas County are proactively and openly working together to address pet homelessness and overpopulation. Many of us share and post our operating statistics, attend joint meetings and participate in regular inspections by qualified personnel. That kind of openness makes it easier to be better partners. And that's how we get more done for our community.

Pet dealers could become partners in this process, as well, playing a much more significant role in improving the lives of animals and the people who love them. The amended pet dealer and kennel ordinance will allow the county to support and even promote continual improvement in the welfare of Pinellas County pets.

Thank you for your strong and thoughtful leadership that makes Pinellas County a wonderful place to call home.

Respectfully,

Martha Boden, PMP, CAWA  
CEO

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