ALABAMA STATE SENATE
Alabama State House
11 S. Union Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-4600
(334) 242-7854

BILL HOLTZCLAW
State Senator 2nd District
P.O. Box 1801
Madison, AL 35758

COMMITTEES:
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Chairman: Veterans and Military Affairs
Vice Chairman: Tennessee Valley Authority
Finance and Taxation, General
Education
Banking and Insurance
Small Business
Children, Youth Affairs, and Human Resources
Local Legislation No. 4
Commerce, Transportation, and Utilities

October 4, 2012

Ms. Tammy Wallace, Executive Director
Alabama Veterinarians Medical Examiners Board
8 Commerce Street, Suite 910
Montgomery, AL 36130-5330

RE: Spay/Neuter Clinics

Dear Board Members:

It is our understanding that as a rule making body, working within the legislative authority granted by statute, that you are considering imposing a new rule that will limit or restrict low-cost spayed/neutered clinics from operating in Alabama. **RULE NUMBER: 930-X-.39 Title of Rule: Exercise of Independent Professional Judgment by Veterinarians; Prohibited Business Arrangements or Relationship.**

As we are all aware, House Bill 156, introduced by Representative Patricia Todd, was heavily debated during the 2012 Regular Legislative Session. Legislators received numerous emails and phone calls from both sides of the issue throughout the legislative session and this bill was tirelessly worked by both parties. Through the spirit of cooperation, the bill received no less than 6 amendments and a version of HB156 passed the House with 73 yes votes and 26 no votes. A further amended version passed the Senate with 27 yes votes. In the end, due to time constraints within the 2012 Session, no final action was taken and the bill "died in the basket."

It is apparent that both sides are passionate about this matter and work remains to be done. Therefore we *respectfully request that no rule changes be implemented* that would affect the current status of low-cost spayed and neuter clinics from operating in Alabama. This matter should be taken up again in the 2013 Legislative Session (convening in February 2013, approximately 4 months from now) and through continued collaborative efforts, we are confident that a solution can be crafted which both sides are able to support.

Thank you for considering our request and for your service to our state.

Sincerely,

Senator Bill Holtzclaw

Senator Del Marsh

Senator Cam Ward

Senator Slade Blackwell

Senator Jerry Fielding