

My name is Ann Olson. I am the executive director of Animal Folks. Address:  
1041 Grand Avenue, St Paul.

I am here to speak about dog breeding facilities, which is on the agenda.

We read the county staff report. While we appreciate the staff's work, we have concerns and questions about their conclusions.

1. Animal welfare – We believe this is the biggest point for discussion. State statute allows the county to assume the duty of animal welfare – it is part of the public safety, morals, and general welfare of a community. Animal welfare is not excluded from law, nor should it be delegated.
2. Permit conditions – Conditions for the multiple permits vary widely – placing animals at risk. How will this be addressed?
3. Compliance – Multiple questions. We found one breeder, for example, who is signing export certificates for other breeders, indicating he was the owner ... which means he is exceeding his limit of dogs. Has this been discussed?
4. The two powerpoints – these are very misleading. One photo shows a dog jumping off a dock into a lake. No breeder brings his 100 or 200 dogs to a lake every day to go swimming, That does not accurately illustrate exercise within these facilities. The same can be said for sanitation, caging, veterinary care, socialization, ..... It's not just about what's in the law, but how the law is being enforced. The state and federal agencies are not experts in canine health and well-being. This has been proven through audits, lawsuits, congressional orders, and complaints.

All of the above and more are worthy of discussion.

We ask for an in-depth study of this issue. We ask a moratorium be placed on new permits. And we ask that the public and others be allowed to participate in all discussions related to this issue.

Thank you.