



At the March 8, meeting of the Kansas Pet Animal Advisory Board (KPAAB), we were told by a representative of the Animal Health Department that the Department of Agriculture (KDA) does not support the amendments to SB 47. However, I have since learned that this statement is incorrect. The Assistant Secretary, Josh Roe, has confirmed to Senators that the KDA supports SB 47 as amended by the Senate. SB 47 passed the Senate 34-5, and there were no amendments offered on the floor to alter the bill in any way.

As the KPAA board member representing shelters, rescues, group home fosters and foster homes - the largest group of licensees (2,367), I am supporting SB 47 as amended by the Senate. In addition, I am asking you to support the bill as passed by the Senate, without further amendments.

*After discussing SB 47 with licensees, I now understand that these organizations recommended the Senate amendments to address several persistent problems in the Animal Facility Inspection Program (AFIP). Specifically, shelters want to correct the substandard enforcement policies that allow bad licensees to consume AFIP resources. Further, the AFIP has a significant problem with uneven enforcement practices among licensees. For example: shelter inspections are unannounced and breeder inspections are frequently scheduled by appointment. The best practice would dictate that all inspections be **unannounced**.*

In closing, the Senate amendments are badly needed and require everyone's support. The financial drain from "no-contact" inspections and re-inspections makes fees charged for substandard performance necessary. We must address funding issues without over-burdening those licensees that are doing a good job.

Please join the Kansas Department of Agriculture and me by supporting SB 47 as amended by the Senate. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Cummins

