

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Larry Powell at 3:30 p.m. on March 17, 2009, in Room 783 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present except - Joshua Svaty.

Committee staff present:

Mike Corrigan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Corey Carnahan, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Pat Matzek, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Sharon Munk, Vice President, Kansas Pet Professionals
Gary Reser, Executive Vice President, Kansas Veterinary Medical Association
Dorothy Brecheisen, President, Kansas Pet Professionals
Becky Blaes, Pet Animal Breeder Representative and Chairperson of Pet Animal Act Advisory Board
Joshua Paige, General Manager, Lambriar, Inc.

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Powell opened the meeting by requesting members of the Committee to review meeting minutes dated 2-25, 2-26, 3-02, 3-03, and 3-04.

Hearing on HB 2377:

HB 2377 - Kansas pet animal act; transferring duties and powers.

Proponents:

Written testimony in favor of **HB 2377**:

Rebecca Mosshart, Member of Kansas Federation of Animal Owners and the Kansas Pet Professionals (Attachment 1)

Sam Mosshart, President, Kansas Federation of Animal Owners (Attachment 2)

Opponents:

Sharon Munk, Vice President, Kansas Pet Professionals (KPP), (Attachment 3) spoke in opposition of **HB 2377**, documenting the KPP has an eighteen year success story here in Kansas and this could be damaged with the proposed change. Ms. Munk further noted she believes the Department of Agriculture regulates the slaughter of horses, not live animals and questions their authority to quarantine, if necessary. Also, she stated the need for protection from the Animal Rights Agenda as its goal is to someday eliminate all use of animals which would be devastating for the farm/ranch states such as Kansas.

Gary Reser, Executive Vice President, Kansas Veterinary Medical Association (KVMA), (Attachment 4) provided testimony in opposition of **HB 2377**, stating the KVMA is concerned that moving the pet animal division of the Kansas Animal Health Department to the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) might draw the attention of some of the more radical national animal rights groups to again target Kansas. Mr. Reser further advised the KDA has never regulated live animals nor does the KDA have quarantine authority or the ability to investigate animal disease.

Dorothy Brecheisen, President, Kansas Pet Professionals, (Attachment 5) is in opposition of **HB 2377**, advising the Department of Agriculture has never regulated live animals, and what they do regulate pertains to the food chain. Ms. Brecheisen further stated the KPP kennel is state and federal inspected, and with other states having trouble with activists, she believes the activists know the KPP has a good inspection program and have not targeted Kansas.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee at 3:30 p.m. on March 17, 2009, in Room 783 of the Docking State Office Building.

Becky Blaes, Pet Animal Breeder Representative and Chairperson of Pet Animal Act Advisory Board, ([Attachment 6](#)) presented testimony in opposition of **HB 2377**, noting the staff of the Kansas Animal Health Department (KAHD) has the professional, specialized background in animal care that is necessary to make timely responses to critical animal health situations, to keep standards high, and to bring unlicensed, substandard facilities into compliance for the well-being of the animals. Ms. Blaes further noted the projected cost savings of restructuring the KAHD into the Department of Agriculture has not been proven accurate and actually presents a significant risk in having a negative impact on the State of Kansas' economy.

Joshua Paige, General Manager, Lambriar, Inc., ([Attachment 7](#)) spoke in opposition of **HB 2377**, documenting that Lambriar, Inc., is licensed as a distributor by both the United States Department of Agriculture and the State of Kansas, purchases puppies from only licensed professional breeders and markets them to pet stores throughout the continental United States, with vaccination and veterinarian inspection prior to their transport. Mr. Paige further documented that Lambriar, Inc., believes it is in the extreme best interest for the Kansas pet industry, Kansas' reputation, and the Kansas economy that the Animal Facilities Inspection Program is not hindered in any way, especially by combining it with any other department.

Written testimony:

Delmar and Kathy Loe, Loe Kennels ([Attachment 8](#))

Becky Simminger ([Attachment 9](#))

N. Marshall Meyers, CEO/General Counsel, Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council ([Attachment 10](#))

Questions were asked and comments were made.

Deborah Duncan, Program Director, Kansas Animal Health Department, also answered questions from members of the Committee.

The hearing was closed on **HB 2377**.

Action on:

SB 183 - Solid waste management plans.

Representative Powell requested Mike Corrigan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, to give an explanation of **SB 183**. Mr. Corrigan stated the bill would give city and county governments the authority to implement an approved solid waste management plan using the existing authority of levying fees and charges upon residents receiving solid waste management services.

A discussion ensued by members of the Committee.

Representative Fund made a motion to pass the bill out favorably and put on the consent calendar. Representative Moxley seconded the motion. By majority vote of the Committee, the motion was carried.

Action on:

SB 203 - Secretary of agriculture, food safety and lodging program changes.

Representative Powell requested Corey Carnahan, Kansas Legislative Research Department, to give an explanation of **SB 203**. Mr. Carnahan commented the bill concerns the transfer of inspection of authority from the Department of Health and Environment to the Department of Agriculture and is a clean up bill.

Representative Wolf made a motion to pass the bill out favorably. Representative Brown seconded the motion. By majority vote of the Committee, the motion was carried.

Representative Wolf is carrying the bill.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee at 3:30 p.m. on March 17, 2009, in Room 783 of the Docking State Office Building.

Action on:

HB 2272 - Procedures for designation of an intensive groundwater use control area.

Representative Powell requested Mike Corrigan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, to give an explanation of **HB 2272**. Mr. Corrigan explained the bill concerns intensive groundwater use control areas located within the boundaries of an existing groundwater management district or districts and is the responsibility of the chief engineer to cooperate and coordinate with the board or board of county commissioners to correct conditions that exist within the area in question which require regulation in the public interest.

A discussion ensued by members of the Committee.

Representative Fund made a motion to pass the bill out favorably. Representative Hineman seconded the motion. By majority vote of the Committee, the motion was carried.

Action on:

HB 2283 - Procedures for release of certain property of rural water districts.

Representative Powell requested Mike Corrigan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, to give an explanation of **HB 2283**. Mr. Corrigan advised the bill states that if certain lands included within a district cannot be economically or adequately served by the facilities of the district, the owners of such lands may petition the board of directors of the district to release those lands from the district.

Representative Fund made a motion to pass the bill out favorably. Representative Navinsky seconded the motion. By majority vote of the Committee, the motion was carried.

Chairman Powell advised members of the Committee if they had no corrections to the meeting minutes dated 2-25, 2-26, 3-02, 3-03, and 3-04 by tomorrow, March 18, the minutes would be considered approved.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Subject: FW: In flavor of House Bill No. 2377
From: Becky Mosshart <kybec70@hotmail.com>
Date: Mon, 16 Mar 2009 22:02:43 -0500
BCC:

From: kybec70@hotmail.com
To: larry.powell@house.ks.gov; rocky.fund@house.ks.gov; elaine.bowers@house.ks.gov;
gary.hayzlett@house.ks.gov; don.hineman@house.ks.gov; dan.johnson@house.ks.gov;
dan.kersch@house.ks.gov; bill.light@house.ks.gov; tom.moxley@house.ks.gov;
willie.prescott@house.ks.gov; don.schroeder@house.ks.gov; bill.wolf@house.ks.gov;
joshua.svaty@house.ks.gov; tony.brown@house.ks.gov; steve.lukert@house.ks.gov;
don.navinsky@house.ks.gov; shirley.palmer@house.ks.gov; wetta@house.state.ks.us;
pat.maloney@house.ks.gov
Subject: In flavor of House Bill No. 2377
Date: Mon, 16 Mar 2009 21:20:00 -0500

Honorable members of the Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources:

I am in favor HB 2377.

In these financially trying times the state government needs be very careful with the taxpayer's money.

I have been raising dogs professionally for 28 years.

I believe that transferring all of the powers, duties and functions of the livestock commissioner in administering the Kansas Pet Animal Act to the Kansas Department of Agriculture and the Secretary of Agriculture would be a good thing.

I also believe that the Department of Ag can handle the program without any reduction in services.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to our thoughts. Please vote to move this bill forward.

Sincerely,

*Rebecca Mosshart
2332 CR 31
Protection, KS 67127
Home phone: 620.622.4431
Member of Kansas Federation of Animal Owners and the Kansas Pet Professionals.*

Ag & Natural Resources Committee
Date 3-17-09
Attachment 1

Subject: In flavor of House Bill No. 2377

From: Becky Mosshart <kybec70@hotmail.com>

Date: Mon, 16 Mar 2009 22:00:40 -0500

To: <larry.powell@house.ks.gov>, <rocky.fund@house.ks.gov>, <elaine.bowers@house.ks.gov>, <gary.hayzlett@house.ks.gov>, <don.hineman@house.ks.gov>, <dan.johnson@house.ks.gov>, <dan.kerschen@house.ks.gov>, <bill.light@house.ks.gov>, <tom.moxley@house.ks.gov>, <willie.prescott@house.ks.gov>, <don.schroeder@house.ks.gov>, <bill.wolf@house.ks.gov>, <joshua.svaty@house.ks.gov>, <tony.brown@house.ks.gov>, <steve.lukert@house.ks.gov>, <don.navinsky@house.ks.gov>, <shirley.palmer@house.ks.gov>, <wetta@house.state.ks.us>, <pat.maloney@house.ks.gov>

Re: In favor or passing HB 2377

Honorable members of the Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources:

By moving the pet department of the Kansas Animal Health Department to the Kansas Department of Agriculture there would be resources available for the pet animal department to finish developing their policy manual, to enable inspections to be more consistent and documentation to be more uniform and computerized for faster information retrieval.

A move of this kind will help the Animal Health Commissioner's ability to address infectious animal diseases for Kansas pets and kennels.

According to the Post Audit Report it will also save Kansas taxpayers money.

Sincerely,

*Sam Mosshart
President - Kansas Federation of Animal Owners
2332 CR 31
Protection, KS 67127
Home phone: 620.622.4431*

Ag & Natural Resources Committee
Date 3-17-09
Attachment 2

March 7, 2009

TO: Chairman Larry Powell
Respected Representatives of the House Agriculture and Natural Resource Committee

FROM: Sharon Munk
Menlo, Kansas (Northwest Kansas on Highway 24 between Colby and Hoxie)
Kansas License: #ABD-5-2009 USDA License: 48-B-0081 AKC # 000001391 APRI # D12

RE: House Bill #2377
An ACT concerning pet animals; transferring the powers, duties and functions of the livestock commissioner regarding the Kansas pet animal act to the secretary of agriculture.....

Chairman Powell and Respected Representatives,

I wish to give you a little background on "OUR" Kansas Pet Animal Act. I use the term "OUR" as this ACT and the enforcement of the Act is a source of PRIDE for all Kansans.

I'm not sure who initiated the bill in 1988, but I do know that Governor Hayden from Atwood, Kansas (my part of the country) signed the bill into LAW. Someone along the lines in 1988 and/or 1989 forgot to put the FUNDING in place for this Act, and no one was serious about any enforcement of the law that was placed on the books.

Our state was hit and HIT HARD in the spring of 1990. We were SHAMED on National Media, and other states would not buy puppies from the State of Kansas. Ninety-five percent of my puppies went to California at the time. California passed a law where Pet Stores had to put a 3" x 5" notice in each puppy window stating the state of origin of the puppy. The law even stipulated the size of the lettering used on the cards. I went to California and watched potential customers speak negatively about my puppies. All of my healthy puppies were by-passed, left sitting in the window, only because they came from the state of Kansas.

The Kansas Attorney General stated on National Television that all respected Kansans should tell California to go to hell!

I don't know how many substandard facilities were in the state of Kansas at the time, but I did personally know dozens upon dozens of good clean facilities. We polled our thoughts, plans and ideas. We went to see the Governor. He appointed an advisory board with representation of all entities. The advisory board rewrote the previous law. We doubled our fees,

With the slogan of **MAKE KANSAS SHINE**, we approached the 1991 legislators. With their help and understanding, we secured the funding and support to get this program off the ground.

In 1996 with advice from the Pet Animal Health Advisory Board, the bill was opened and a few necessary changes were made. One of those changes being, the wording of "shall inspect" to "may inspect".....so if we ever hit a financial crunch, we could operate on a shoestring budget and still carry out the intent of the law.

I use the term "WE" as the licensed professional pet breeders in the state of Kansas feel as if this is "OUR" program. The Kansas Animal Health Commissioner is doing exactly what was requested of him. Stay on top of the animal health issues in the state of Kansas.

The state of Kansas is not discriminatory. We do not only inspect those that are in the business of 'wholesale.' The state of Kansas is concerned with Animal Health, and that is where we get our #1 reputation. We have been known as the "MODEL STATE" for over a decade. Regardless if you are a professional breeder and place your puppies in pet stores, a retail breeder and only utilize the newspapers and internet for sales, a shelter that accepts and rehabilitates pets for sale, a rescue group, a boarder or trainer, research facility or hobby breeder.....we are all treated equally when it comes to animal health.

We have an EIGHTEEN (18) year **SUCCESS STORY** here. This could be damaged with the proposed change. I believe the Department of Ag regulates slaughter houses, not live animals. Does the Department of Ag have quarantine authority if needed?

Over half of the states had very limiting and negative legislation introduced this year. Three of our neighbors: Oklahoma, Colorado and Nebraska were targeted. We need protection from the Animal Rights Agenda. HSUS (Humane Society of the United State) and PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) are Animal Rights Groups, not Animal Welfare Groups. Their goal is to someday eliminate ALL USE of animals. No food, no fiber, no entertainment (Rodeos/Zoos) and no Pets. This would be devastating for the Farm/Ranch states such as Kansas. **We look to YOU, the legislators for protection from the Animal Rights Groups.**

Moving just this Pet Animal Act Program away from the rest of the animals, falls under the divide and conquer strategy. We need to stay together.

Continue to KEEP US SHINING

Thank you, Sharon Munk

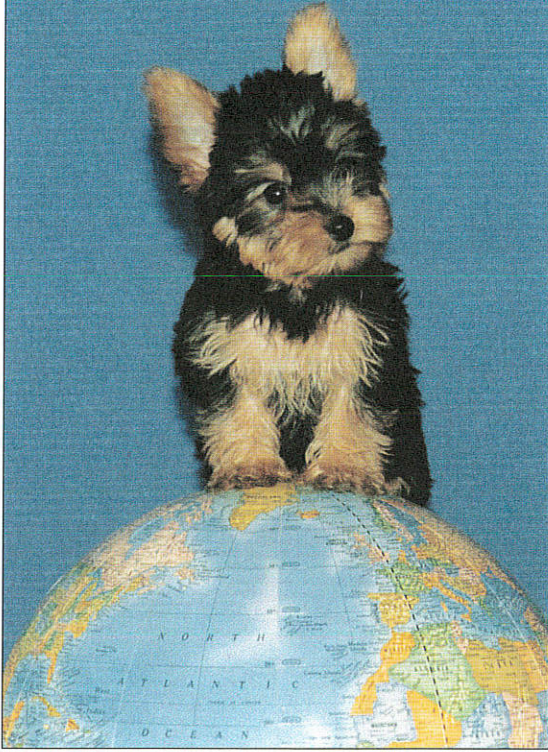
Ag & Natural Resources Committee
Date 3-17-09
Attachment 3

KANSAS

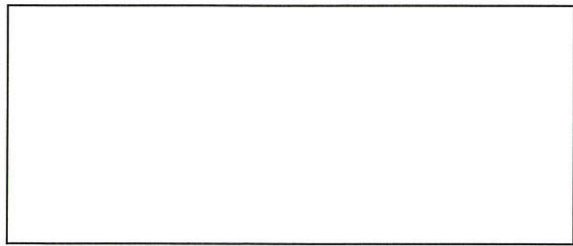
PET

PROFESSIONALS

ON TOP OF THE WORLD

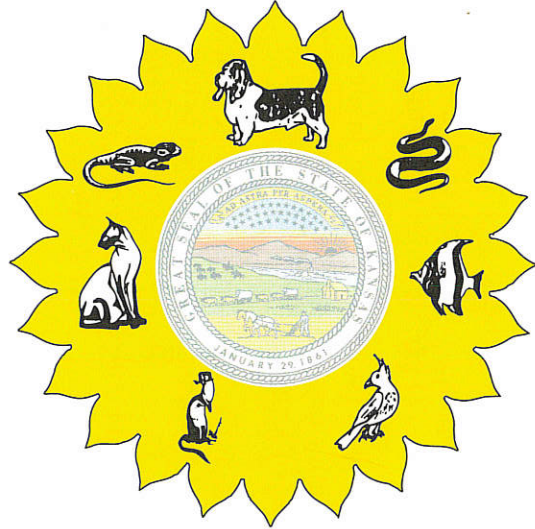


For more information on KPP services and sales contact:



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KANSAS PET PROFESSIONALS



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KANSAS Pet Professionals is a non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring the health of KANSAS pets.

KPP conducts educational seminars for continued education in pet related fields.

KPP has cooperated with state and federal officials in the development of legislation which clearly establishes sanitation and care requirements, effectively provides compliance procedures, fairly and equitably regulates the pet animal industry, while providing comprehensive consumer protection.

KANSAS is known as the "MODEL STATE" with the passing and enforcing of their Pet Animal Act.

Kansas Pet Professionals are devoted to the humane care of all animals. This can be obtained with education for everyone involved in the pet's life.



3-1



816 SW Tyler, Suite 200, Topeka, KS 66612-1635 ■ (785) 233-4141 ■ FAX: (785) 233-2534

Testimony on H.B. 2377
House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
Presented by Kansas Veterinary Medical Association
Tuesday, March 17, 2009

Representative Powell and members of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear today on behalf of the Kansas Veterinary Medical Association (KVMA) and testify in opposition to H. B. 2377.

The Kansas Veterinary Medical Association (KVMA) advocates on behalf of the Kansas veterinary profession through legislative and regulatory representation and educational, communications, and public awareness programs.

The KVMA respectfully requests Committee members vote “no” on H.B. 2377.

The KVMA and its members feel that the Kansas Animal Health Department (KAHD) and its breeder inspection program have done an excellent job of regulating the state’s breeders and kennels.

Personally, I recall the extensive and expensive efforts of out of state organizations that zeroed in on so called “puppy mills” in Kansas in the early nineties, even calling for a boycott of Kansas beef as one of their tactics. The KAHD inspection program has made those campaigns much less visible in recent years.

The kennel program at KAHD was initiated because puppies from Kansas were unhealthy and some states were refusing to accept puppies from Kansas. That problem has also been largely remedied. The KAHD companion animal division ensures that animals being sold in Kansas are free of infectious or contagious diseases.

The KAHD has quarantined kennels and pet stores for bringing animals into Kansas without health papers and/or rabies vaccinations. They have also quarantined for mange, ringworm, contagious upper respiratory disease, and psittacosis.

The KVMA is concerned that moving the pet animal division of KAHD to the Kansas Department of Agriculture might draw the attention of some of the more radical national animal rights groups to again target Kansas. Again, that has not been the case recently because the inspection program at KAHD is nationally recognized for its successes.

The strategy and tactics of some animal rights groups would not limit proposed changes to companion animals. Questioning and challenging traditional animal husbandry and agricultural management approaches could also be part of their missions.

Ag & Natural Resources Committee
Date 3-17-09
Attachment 4

Moving the pet animal division to the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) would not necessarily save money because KDA would probably have to cross train food inspectors with kennel inspectors. This is not an easy task. Kennel inspectors at KAHD have strong small animal backgrounds ranging from military dog handling to former breeders to veterinary technicians. I have included current required backgrounds for kennel inspectors as an attachment to my testimony.

I have also attached bullet points on why H.B. 2377 should not be implemented.

Once again, the KVMA respectfully requests you vote "no" on H.B 2377.

Respectfully submitted,



Gary Reser
KVMA executive vice president

Reasons to Vote "No" on H.B. 2377

- * The Kansas Dept. of Agriculture (KDA) has never regulated live animals. They regulate animals after slaughter.
- * Everything currently regulated by KDA pertains to the human food chain. The regulation of pets would not appear to easily fall into that category.
- * The KDA does not have quarantine authority or the ability to investigate animal disease.
- * Cross training of KDA food inspectors with kennel inspectors might be necessary.
- * A move of the Kansas Animal Health Department (KAHD) pet animal division to the KDA could raise the attention of animal rights groups that might focus on all animal husbandry and farm and ranch management practices.
- * The KAHD has done an excellent job in ensuring that animals being sold in Kansas are free of infectious or contagious diseases.
- * The KAHD inspection program is nationally recognized for its successful inspection program.

KAHD Kennel Staff Backgrounds

- * 10 years as a dog breeder and a BA in sociology
- * 10 years as an animal control officer and military dog handler
- * two years as a veterinary technician and two years as a breeder
- * five years as a veterinary technician
- * seven years as an employee and supervisor at a large humane society

March 16, 2009

Re: House Bill #2377

Dear Representatives and Members of the Committee;

I have been a kennel operator in Kansas for twenty three years. I am opposed to House Bill #2377.

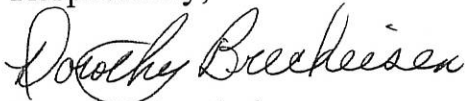
The Department of Agriculture has never regulated live animals. Everything the Dept of Ag regulates now pertains to the food chain.

The Kansas Animal Pet Act was put into place when our industry needed cleaned up. We have made great strides in our industry. The Kansas Animal Health Department has worked with many kennels to get them into compliance. There was a time when other states did not want our puppies shipped to there states. Now we ship puppies all over the country and can be proud of our state program.

Our inspection program is working. Please don't break it . With other states having trouble with activists I feel they know we have a good inspection program and have not targeted Kansas.

Our kennel is state and federal inspected. I work for the good of our industry. I am president of Kansas Pet Professionals and we voted to work to leave the kennel program with the Kansas Animal Health Department. As we feel it is working. I feel Debra Duncan and her inspectors do a good job. I urge you to vote no to House Bill #2377. Thank you for your consideration Of this bill.

Respectfully,



Dorothy Brecheisen
3754 E 245th st
Lyndon, KS 66451
(785)828-4760

Ag & Natural Resources Committee
Date 3-17-09
Attachment 5

March 17, 2009

Members of the Kansas House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee
Docking State Office Building, Room 783, Topeka, Kansas

Opposed to HB 2377

Dear Honorable Representatives:

My name is Rebecca Blaes and I live in Cherryvale, Kansas. I presently serve as Chairman and Animal Breeder Representative of the Governor appointed Kansas Pet Animal Advisory Board. I would like to thank each of you for your service to the state of Kansas and for allowing me to express why I am **opposed to HB 2377**.

In regards to this bill, to "Let Sleeping Dogs Lie" would be a very appropriate expression, as we know its meaning is, "to refrain from action that would alter an existing situation for fear of causing problems or complexities".

Animal Breeders depend on the Kansas Animal Health Department, as it is currently structured, to respond swiftly to all animal health or disease concerns, some which have the potential to become threats to human health. The staff of the Kansas Animal Health Department has the professional, specialized background in animal care that is necessary to make timely responses to critical animal health situations, to keep our standards high, and to bring unlicensed, substandard facilities into compliance for the wellbeing of our animals.

The licensed and inspected animal breeders of Kansas are highly respected, which reflects positively on the state of Kansas in many ways. In a monetary respect, millions of out-of-state dollars are brought into Kansas each year because individuals choose to do business with reputable animal breeders within our state. In turn, a great deal of this out-of-state income goes directly back into Kansas businesses, generating much needed tax dollars. Without the protection of the Kansas Animal Health Department, as it is currently structured, we stand to lose not only our good reputation, but a great deal of money for the state of Kansas.

The Kansas Animal Health Department is working diligently to cut costs and work on an already limited budget. The projected cost savings of restructuring this department into the Department of Agriculture have not been proven accurate and actually present a significant risk in having a negative impact on our state's economy.

In closing, I would like to thank you for allowing me to express my **opposition to HB 2377**. To "let this sleeping dog lie" would enable the Kansas Animal Health Department to continue providing protection for the health of our animals and the citizens of Kansas, for our hard-earned reputations, and for the continuance of generated tax revenue for the state of Kansas.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Blaes
Chairman and Animal Breeder Representative, Kansas Pet Animal Advisory Board
522 N. Maple
Cherryvale, KS 67335
Phone: 620.336.3700 or 620.252.5738
E-mail: bblaes2000@yahoo.com

Ag & Natural Resources Committee
Date 3-17-09
Attachment 6



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Mahaska, KS 66955
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To the House Agriculture Committee
March 17, 2009
Re: House Bill 2377

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear here today to share my views in regard to House Bill 2377 and the impact that it may have on the pet industry.

My name is Joshua Paige, I am the General Manager of Lambriar, Inc. and I am also the Representative for the Animal Distributors on the Kansas Pet Animal Advisory Board. Lambriar was founded by Roger and Darlene Lambert in 1969. We have grown from a small family business to a national leader in the pet industry. We currently employ 75 people, including several full and part time veterinarians who supervise our animal care operations.

Lambriar, licensed as a distributor by both the USDA and the State of Kansas, purchases puppies from only licensed professional breeders and markets them to pet stores throughout the continental United States. Before transporting them to our purchasers, our veterinarians inspect and vaccinate each puppy. We groom them and deliver them to our customers in specially outfitted climate controlled vehicles designed to keep the puppies safe and healthy on their way to our customers' stores. All delivery trucks have two drivers and the puppies are never left unattended.

Lambriar takes very seriously our obligation to provide superior animal care and healthy, quality puppies to our retail customers. We have a comprehensive animal care program led by a staff of veterinarians with many years experience in the care of puppies. These puppies, many bred and purchased in Kansas, are destined to become pets in families throughout the nation.

Kansas is one of the largest and most successful states in the professional pet industry. Between 700-800 kennels are licensed by the state under the Kansas Pet Animal Act. Each of these licensed kennels represents a Kansas family who depends on that kennel for their livelihood. Millions of dollars flow into the Kansas economy each year from other states, which supports many jobs and Kansas families. While our industry is not as large as the cattle or hog industry, it is a significant part of Kansas' diverse economy.

Since 1988 when the Animal Facilities Inspection Program came into being, it has been instrumental in building the good reputation the Kansas Pet Industry has today. It has changed the reputation Kansas had as a "puppy mill" state to a model state which does what's best for the animals. Many other states do not have an effective program and are constantly faced with negative media and legislative issues.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, we recognize that you're are confronted with many difficult and challenging decisions, however, we feel that it is in the extreme best interest for the Kansas pet industry, Kansas' reputation, and the Kansas economy that the Animal Facilities Inspection Program is not hindered in any way, especially by combining it with any other department. The amount of money to be saved is so minimal in comparison to the amount of money we risk losing if the pet industry is damaged.

We urge the committee to reject House Bill 2377 by the Legislature. Lambriar is celebrating its 40th year and we, like many others in the pet industry, feel our future success is dependent on the effectiveness of the Animal Facilities Inspection Program.

Thank you again for this opportunity.

Joshua Paige

Ag & Natural Resources Committee
Date 3-17-09
Attachment 7

*"Our commitment to you: The highest in quality, excellent follow up service,
and true dedication to improvements in the pet industry"*



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USDA AND STATE LICENSED

Loe Kennels

AKC REGISTERED PUPPIE

Delmar and Kathy Loe
 3812 N Road
 Beloit, Ks. 67420
 HOME#: (785) 593-6842
 CELL#: (785) 648-0026
 loekennels@hotmail.com



Honorable Committee members,

We have been raising pet animals in the state of Kansas since 1980. First with showing and breeding persian cats, receiving numerous national breeder of the year awards and now with our professional dog kennel.

Many of the pet stores we deal with do so because of the quality of the animals that come out of the kennels in Kansas. Many times I have had the animal transport operators tell me how nice the puppies are they pick up in Kansas compared to the other states. We have that reputation because of the good animal inspection program that we have. Our fear by moving the Kansas Pet Animal Inspection program to another department is that it will hinder their ability to act when need be. Right now three of our neighboring states (Nebraska, Colorado, and Oklahoma) have been hit with legislature promoted by HSUS and other AR groups. Kansas has been left alone up til now and if we start to change things it may give them the opening they have been looking for.

We all know that these are dire economic times but if this is strictly a matter of money surely we can work together to find a better solution to this problem. Please leave the Kansas Pet Animal Act with the Kansas Animal Health Department and help us maintain our reputation as the "Model State."

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Delmar & Kathy Loe
 Delmar and Kathy Loe

Ag & Natural Resources Committee
 Date 3-17-09
 Attachment 8

March 16, 2009,

RE: House Bill #2377

Dear Members of the Committee:

I have been a kennel operator in Kansas for fourteen years and I am opposed to House Bill #2377.

The Kansas Pet Animal Act inspection program is vital to the pet animal industry in our state. With the help of the inspection program, Kansas kennel operators have been successfully producing healthy pets for sale across the United States, not just in Kansas. The pet industry brings in a large amount of revenue to our State each year.

The Kansas Animal Health Department has been able to respond quickly and efficiently to live animal health concerns with their well trained staff. Any changes to this very successful program could cause needless delays when responding to animals in need and safeguarding the health of the public. Any change will also give animal activists an opportunity to introduce negative pet legislation that could have a devastating effect on pet animal breeders and the Kansas economy.

Legislators do not need to spend time changing a program that has worked so well for the State of Kansas for eighteen years.

Please vote NO on House Bill #2377 and thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Becky Simminger

Becky Simminger
Rt. 1 Box 20
Ludell, KS 67744
785-626-9575

Ag & Natural Resources Committee
Date 3-17-09
Attachment 9



**TESTIMONY OF THE
PET INDUSTRY JOINT ADVISORY COUNCIL
BEFORE THE
HOUSE AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
HOUSE BILL 2377
MARCH 17, 2009**

As the world's largest pet trade association, the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC) appreciates the opportunity to offer this Committee our views on House Bill 2377. Representing the interests of all segments of the pet industry throughout the United States, PIJAC counts among its members various associations, organizations, corporations and individuals involved in the commercial pet trade. More specifically, we represent pet breeders, pet product manufacturers, distributors and retailers throughout Kansas who would be impacted by the legislation before you today.

The Kansas Pet Animal Act has been successfully implemented and administered by the Kansas Animal Health Department since the Act's inception in 1988. Transferring the administration of a highly successful program to the Department of Agriculture, a department that has never regulated live animals is at best counter-productive.

The Kansas Animal Health Department's administration of the Act has been exemplary – in fact, it is one of the best, if not the best, run state kennel/pet store licensure and inspection programs in the United States. The genesis of this program should not be overlooked. The Pet Animal Act came about following intense criticism of Kansas' kennels allegedly producing substandard and unhealthy puppies for the pet trade. Kansas's "black eye" no longer exists and it is respected for its fair and balanced enforcement approach that has not favored any group. It has been objective, fairly administered and should be complemented on its ability to shut down substandard facilities that would not or could not come into compliance.

The Kansas inspection program works; its staff is well trained and experienced in animal care, facility inspections, quarantine, etc. with a staff with years of experience in handling various species in the pet trade. What happens next – are the current staff to be transferred to the Department or is the Department going to have to hire and train a new group of inspectors? Will any cost savings be realized or is this simply a transfer of authority to a Department with no experience in the regulatory arena it is being thrust?

Under the adage "if it ain't broke, don't fix it!" we urge the Committee to

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Date 3-17-09
Attachment 10

leave well enough alone. To transfer the administration of a well functioning program to an inexperienced department as a result of some criticism that the Act is being strictly enforced or because some simply do not like being regulated does not warrant disrupting a nationally recognized program.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns!

Respectfully Submitted,

Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council

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