

Pet Animal Advisory Board

Lorilee Thomas –Breeder Representative

The Pet Animal Advisory Board is made up of representatives from each of the categories that are inspected under the Kansas Pet Animal Act. I am the breeder's representative and have been since 2011 when the act was opened to work on. Our advisory board has worked very hard during the last several years to make sure that our Kansas Pet Animal Act is fair and takes care of our state's animal inspection program.

We are all very aware of the need to generate more funds in order to keep this program alive. Our advisory board has voted unanimously to support SB 47 as it was introduced / without the amendments.

These amendments had been discussed at great length in prior meetings and voted on *by our board* to be unnecessary. For example: The amendment of the NO CONTACT fee may sound like a quick and easy way to add more dollars to the program, however; if you will ask the Department of Agriculture to explain to you why this blanket fee will not work –they will be happy to explain to you how pet stores and shelters have certain “set hours” of operation and when an inspector visits them there is bound to be someone on staff to accommodate them. If an inspector were to visit a smaller rescue or breeder who only has a staff of themselves –they may not be readily available because they were taking one of their animals to the veterinarian, or running to pick up supplies for their facility or any other list of things that a staff of one has to do? ***This amendment will prohibit any flexibility of the department to run efficiently.*** Our advisory board discussed these situations at great length and want our inspections program to run efficiently. This is why I urge you to please pass SB 47 as presented without the amendments.

Please note that these amendments were **not** presented or supported by the Pet Animal Advisory Board. They were presented by another group outside of the Pet Animal Advisory Board and don't adequately represent this board's recommendations. Please check all of the facts with the Department of Agriculture before you choose to support the amendments. This board is in alignment with the Department of Agriculture & supporting SB-47 **without** the amendments.

Thank you for your consideration,

Lorilee Thomas