

March 22, 2023

Proponent of House Bill 2437

Dear Chairman Rahjes and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kelly Bogner. I am a public servant and currently serve on the Kansas Pet Animal Advisory Board (KPAAB) as the public member representative. I am submitting testimony as a citizen passionate about pet animal welfare and not on behalf of the KPAAB.

I urge you to support House Bill 2437, which updates several provisions of the Kansas Pet Animal Act (KPAA) to align with current best practices and improve enforcement by the Animal Facilities Inspection (AFI) program.

HB 2437 promotes improved management and enforcement practices by AFI as recommended by the 2018 Legislative Post Audit report. At the KPAAB's December 7, 2022 meeting, KDA Deputy Secretary Kelsey Olsen announced that the KDA would be pursuing a bill in the 2023 session to update the KPAA with the following provisions:

- Changing the "adequate feeding" definition in K.S.A. 47-1701(a) to every 12 hours instead of every 24 hours
- Changing the "adequate watering" definition in K.S.A. 47-1701(b) to require continuous access to potable water
- Removing the exemption for "adequate veterinary medical care" for those licensed by the USDA
- Removing the exemption from following the KDA's rules and regulations for those licensed by the USDA
- Changing the record retention schedule in K.S.A. 47-1709(i) from 3 to 5 years

I found all of these proposed changes to the Act necessary and appropriate. Some members of the Board disagreed with the proposed changes, notably the change to the "adequate feeding" definition, which has since been removed from the final bill. I was in support of changing "adequate feeding". The Board *did* have opportunities to provide input and feedback on this bill during that December meeting and in other meetings since. Board members' unwillingness to provide feedback does not mean the opportunity to do so was not presented.

I urge you to support HB 2437, which contains several updates designed to protect pet animals and ensure accountability from the agency charged with carrying out the law.

Thank you,
Kelly L. Bogner
Fredonia, KS