

From: sundrupal@capitol.local on behalf of [Texas Sunset Commission](#)
To: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Wednesday, November 16, 2016 11:20:00 AM

Agency: STATE BOARD VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS

First Name: Lisa

Last Name: Maxwell

Title: Community Engagement Director

Organization you are affiliated with: Austin Pets Alive!

Email:

City: Austin

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed:

During the Korean war, MASH units were established near front lines to supply mobile and flexible military medical care. These proved to be highly successful; in Korea, a seriously wounded soldier who made it to a MASH unit alive had a greater than 97% chance of survival once he received treatment. You've all seen the show. They worked in sub optimal conditions, had to treat high volumes of patients and still managed to save many more lives.

I often compare the work of a shelter to that of a MASH unit. What we do is not the same as what you'd see at a Seton or other taxpayer-funded hospital. We don't charge for an aspirin because we can't- there is no one to pay for it. What we do is use every tool at our disposal to save lives on a budget. This includes volunteers and donated supplies. Doing things inexpensively doesn't mean our caregivers aren't skilled. It doesn't mean our work is haphazard. We have proven that our protocols work - for example, our parvo ward regularly achieves an 88 percent survival rate - comparable to that of a private veterinary practice - with the bulk of the care given by volunteers who are overseen by our vets.

That being said, APA! has tried for more than a year to hire a third veterinarian and it has been hard because of the undue burden of responsibilities that the Vet Board is trying to place on a shelter vet's license. The shelter vets, under the proposed changes, would be required to physically see every animal that enters a shelter and be responsible for their care and treatment even if the vet is not there. If there are any complaints about anything at all that happens in a shelter to the vet board, their license would be in jeopardy. Vets already are not interested in high volume shelter work because it is very hard with long hours, many patients, and few resources. They simply won't do what the vet board wants them to do which means that shelters will lose the minimum vet care they are getting right now. The vet board is claiming to want to raise the standards but in reality they will be lowering them as they build a system that no one can comply with except for shelters that save a few while the rest die at city

shelters. The animals will keep pouring in whether there is a vet there or not and shelters will be forced to do something with them with a vet helping or not. They are pushing a first-world solution on what is really more like a third world problem.

Please do not give the vet board regulatory oversight of shelters. This will take us backwards not forward.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Please do not give the vet board regulatory oversight of shelters. This will take us backwards not forward.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree