

3-22-23

Rep. Rahjes and Members of the Committee:

I apologize for not appearing in person today but I was unable to make the hearing due to other responsibilities. Please accept my written testimony in support of HB 2437 and reach out with any questions you may have.

My name is Nika Orebaugh and I'm Animal Control Supervisor. I've been an Animal Control Officer for 14 years and the ACO supervisor for 5 years. I currently serve on the Kansas Animal Control Association board of directors.

More than 70% of Kansans have pet animals. Most of those animals are considered to be part of the family, living in homes, sleeping in our beds and sharing our lives. People expect pet animals to be well cared for and trust that our state is doing the best job possible to assure of their welfare.

The Animal Facility Inspection (AFI) program oversees the health, safety and welfare of Kansas dogs, cats and hand-held pets through enforcement of the Kansas Pet Animal Act. Over the past year, the Sg Co Animal Control team has helped with the seizure and housing of pet animals with the AFI program. HB 2437 has changes to the Pet Animal Act that will allow shelters and rescues to receive restitution for housing those pet animals

The changes to the Pet Animal Act are necessary to elevate the health, safety and welfare of Kansas pet animals.

Sincerely,