



Since 1894

Date: February 13, 2024

To: House Committee on Agriculture  
Rep. Ken Rahjes, Chair

From: Taylor Nikkel, Director of the Stockgrowers Division, Kansas Livestock Association

Re: **HB 2542 AN ACT concerning agriculture; relating to the Kansas pet animal act**

Position: Opponent, In-Person

*The Kansas Livestock Association (KLA), formed in 1894, is a trade association representing more than 5,700 members on legislative and regulatory issues. KLA members are involved in many aspects of the livestock industry, including seed stock, cow-calf, and stocker cattle production; cattle feeding; dairy production; swine production; grazing land management; and diversified farming operations.*

Thank you, Chairman Rahjes, and members of the Committee, for allowing the Kansas Livestock Association (KLA) the opportunity to share our views on HB 2542. In its current form, KLA opposes HB 2542 because some of the terms used in this bill to limit production practices for pet breeders could easily be translated to livestock production. With the amendments discussed below, however, KLA would become neutral on the bill.

Although HB 2542 deals predominately with the Pet Animal Act, sections of this bill could have direct implications for the livestock sector if such references were to become engrained in statute. KLA opposes requiring the Commissioner to implement regulations that include "exercise and socialization" requirements (page 12, line 8) and "morbidity and mortality data" (page 12, line 31). We believe these requirements are an overreach that will allow extremist animal rights groups to gather information to use against pet breeders to put them out of business. These same tactics have been used against livestock operations to push initiatives to limit livestock production methods. For instance, such terms were used by extremist groups to push Proposition 12 in California that limits swine gestation crates, caged laying hens, and veal production. Such terms do not belong in Kansas law whether it is for livestock or pet health programs.

KLA appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony as an opponent of HB 2542. We realize KDA may need some modifications to the Pet Animal Act to improve the functionality of the program and KLA is not taking a stance on those issues. However, if the Committee decides that some technical changes are needed, KLA recommends the Committee strike the provisions referenced above. If such amendments are made, KLA would become neutral on the bill.