



Leavenworth County Humane Society, Inc.

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Testimony **in Support of 2017 SB 47 / HB 2097** (An Act concerning agriculture, relating to animal health, etc.)

Submitted by Crystal Swann Blackdeer, Executive Director, Leavenworth County Humane Society, Inc.,
Kansas License # CB001LMC

To: Senator Kerschen, Chair, Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

Representative Hoffman, Chair, House Committee on Agriculture

I and many colleagues and the Department of Agriculture have been advocating for updates to the Kansas Pet Animal Act for at least 5 years now. It is time to get this done. Far too many hours have been spent talking with no progress being made.

I support passage of Senate Bill 47/ HB 2097, with amendments to assess fees for missed or refused inspections and for reinspections subsequent to a failed inspection. Missed or refused inspections and follow-up inspections create an unnecessary drain on the Department and inspectors' time. Licensees who choose not to adhere to standards should bear the cost of their negligence or refusal to comply with the law and regulations. Any licensee who fails 3 inspections in a 2 year period should have their license revoked.

Inspections – Regular visits from Animal Health inspectors encourage licensee compliance with statutes and regulations. “Shall inspect” is much more appropriate than “may inspect.” No licensee should receive prior notice of an inspection, especially those who have a history of violations.

Veterinary Records – Inspectors must have access to veterinary records for animals under licensee care. It is impossible to judge if an animal is receiving proper care without seeing a veterinary record.

Kansas Pet Animal Advisory Board – Rescue networks are an entirely different “animal” than shelters. They are a different category of licensee, and should have their own representation on the Board. Before LCHS, Inc. rented our facility this summer, we paid our fees, we complied with the KPAA, but we had no representation on the Board.

I advocate for retention of the current language in the KPAA requiring the Private Citizen to be someone NOT affiliated with the pet animal industry. This person in essence represents the CONSUMER. They should not only have no professional relationship with a licensee, they should not be related to them by blood or marriage.

Off-site adoptions – Allowing shelters & rescues to do off-site adoptions is life saving. Not everyone will visit an animal shelter, and rescue networks have no central location the public can visit. As long as documentation and care requirements are met, the physical setting of the adoption is irrelevant.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input in support of SB 47/ HB 2097.