



Lawrence
Humane
SOCIETY

TO: House Committee on Agriculture
FROM: Kate Meghji, Executive Director
DATE: March 13, 2017
RE: Support for SB47: Updating the Kansas Pet Animal Act (KPAA)

Chair Hoffman and Members of the Committee:

I am the Executive Director of the Lawrence Humane Society, President of the Pet Animal Coalition of Kansas (PACK), a member of the Society of Animal Welfare Administrators, and I have been involved with animal sheltering and welfare for more than 10 years.

Animal shelters and rescues in Kansas, like the Lawrence Humane Society, accept and care for the State's 100,000+ unwanted, abused, overbred, surplus and abandoned cats and dogs every year. Animal shelters are not funded or reimbursed by the State or any national animal organizations and we support the State's economy by paying hundreds of thousands of sales tax dollars and more than \$30 million invested annually in our local communities. Licensed shelters, rescues and group home fosters represent the largest number of animal facility licensees in the State.

SB47 has the support of the Secretary of Agriculture, the Pet Animal Coalition of Kansas, and numerous other pet animal organizations and facilities in the State.

I respectfully ask you to move SB47, **as it passed with amendments in the Senate (34-5)**, forward to the full house. These amendments address several problems in the Animal Facility Inspection Program (AFIP). Specifically, substandard enforcement policies that allow bad licensees to consume limited resources and uneven enforcement practices among licensees:

- Licensed facilities should not receive advance warning of an inspection, unless they have been violation free for at least 3 years.
- Licensed facilities that fail 3 inspections in 24 months should have their license revoked.
- Substandard licensees should be held financially accountable for re-inspections, no contacts, inspection refusals, and failing inspections.
- The annual fee for licensing foster homes, utilized by most shelters and rescues, should increase to \$20 per foster to provide financial support to the KDA.

I am happy to answer any questions or provide any additional information that you may require.

Thank you,

Kate Meghji

Executive Director, Lawrence Humane Society
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