

To: Senator Kerschen
From: Debbie Jo Miller
Companion Animal Protection Society
RE: HB 2477 PROPONENT
Date: March 7, 2018

I am the Kansas Director of Companion Animal Protection Society (CAPS), a nation-wide non-profit organization dedicated to investigating pet stores and the puppy mills who support them since 1992.

Please support HB 2477, as amended by the full house, to help ensure the safety of companion animals in our state.

Opponents of the bill may present arguments that puppy mill breeders require 24 hour notice for inspections. Giving these breeders such a notice would allow them time to prepare for inspection thus giving them an unfair advantage.

Sadly, Kansas has 12 breeding facilities listed on the Humane Society's "Horrible Hundred 2017" report. Some of the violations in the report are below. If these breeders had been given a 24 hour notice, some of these horrendous violations would not have been found.

Please note, the first violation listed is from Sharon Munk's facility, President of Kansas Governor's Pet Advisory Committee!

- Facility with over 1,100 dogs found with dangerous housing, poor temperature control, three dogs in need of medical care, received official warning from USDA.
- Owner failed state inspection for rat infestation and dirty conditions.

- Inspectors continued to find injured dogs even after sending official warning; puppies had feet falling through wire flooring.
- Kennel with more than 600 dogs had decrepit conditions, excessive feces; some dogs only had barrels for shelter.
- Direct violation for lethargic dog smeared with feces; other violations for filthy conditions; facility had more than 380 dogs.
- Injured animals found six years in a row, filthy conditions; dogs found in the summer heat with no shade.
- Failed December 2016 state inspection for sanitation problems, dogs in the cold; some dogs in wire crates so small that their heads touched the top.
- Failed to let inspectors in for at least 12 different state and/or USDA visits since 2011; newborn puppies found outside in the cold.
- Repeatedly found with matted dogs, dogs with dental disease.

For the dogs help captive in puppy mills, these terrible conditions are the only life they know. HB 2477 as written, does not provide a 24 hour advance notice to these breeders to prepare for their inspections. The companion animals in Kansas are counting on your vote in favor of HB 2477.

Respectfully,

Debbie Jo Miller

Companion Animal Protection Society

Kansas Director

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