



Sen. Dan Kerschen  
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources  
[Judy.Marks@senate.ks.gov](mailto:Judy.Marks@senate.ks.gov)  
VIA EMAIL

February 10, 2019

Chairman Kerschen and members of the committee,

As veterinarians for the Kansas Humane Society, and the Salina Animal Shelter, we would like to voice our support for Senate Bill 117.

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The Kansas Humane Society provides services for almost 16,000 animals each year, and we found homes for over 11,000 animals each of the past two years. K.S.A. 47-624 limits organizations providing help to unwanted animals by restricting their movement from the shelter, and prevents us from accepting additional animals when we are treating sick animals. In 2018, dozens of dogs with kennel cough were restricted from being sent to foster homes, or being adopted to willing homes. These animals had to be euthanized since we were out of isolation space. Kennel cough is the canine version of a cold, and getting an animal out of a stressful shelter environment will lead to faster recovery, and dramatically reduce the risk of healthy animals in the shelter being exposed.

Without this change, thousands of animals in Kansas are at risk of being euthanized since all shelters, rescues, and veterinarians have limited isolation space available to house these animals. There is simply no logical reason for these animals to remain in a shelter until they are cleared of symptoms. The current statute was obviously written for livestock and food animals, not organizations that can't control the populations they accept and treat.

We hope you will consider this change that will benefit cats and dogs throughout our state, and allow shelters, rescues, and veterinarians to continue to accept and treat animals without these current restrictions.

Thank you for your time.

**Dr. Jamie Fisher, DVM**  
KHS Veterinarian

**Dr. Melissa Juby, DVM**  
KHS Veterinarian

**Dr. Jessica Braun, DVM**  
KHS Veterinarian  
Salina Animal Services Veterinarian

The Kansas Humane Society is funded by private donations, is not a United Way agency, and is not affiliated with the Humane Society of the United States.