



February 12, 2019
Senate Agriculture Committee

Senator Kerschen and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to submit written testimony for today's hearing concerning and in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 117. Wichita Animal Action League (WAAL) is a non-profit animal rescue in Sedgwick County, KS. My written testimony is on behalf of the hundreds of supporters of WAAL and many more throughout the state who are in favor of SB 117.

Senate Bill 117 ensures that cats and dogs are treated as companion animals in the state of Kansas, instead of livestock. We fully support the Mid-America Alliance for Animals and the Kansas Department of Agriculture in their efforts to support companion animal health while also allowing these companion animals to find loving homes and placements. Currently, shelters and rescues are required to euthanize animals that could otherwise be treated and housed in a stress-free environment or adopted without consequence to other animals. SB 117 would remove those cruel and unnecessary choices.

As an example, currently Kansas is the only state that doesn't allow the adoption or transfer of FIV positive non-symptomatic cats. Other states have already reflected in their laws that FIV positive non-symptomatic cats regularly live long healthy lives and can be safely adopted and transferred. SB 117 will ensure Kansas joins the rest of the country in allowing these companion animals to live healthy lives with their adopters or rescuers.

On behalf of our supporters and advocates, I ask that you support Senate Bill 117. I stand ready to answer any questions or concerns to the best of my ability.

Rescue on,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sarah Coffman' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sarah Coffman
Founder/Executive Director
Wichita Animal Action League
www.WAALrescue.org