

Feb. 12, 2019

Senate Agriculture Committee

Senator Kerschen and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support of Senate Bill 117. I have been involved in cat and kitten rescue in Kansas since 2005. I foster, am highly involved in community cat spay/neuter clinics and co-founded a 501(c)3 cat and kitten no kill rescue that placed 600+ cats and kittens each year.

Senate Bill 117 accomplishes a key objective by segregating the treatment of companion animals from livestock. I commend the Mid-America Alliance for Animals and the Kansas Department of Agriculture for taking this step to promote companion animal health. The animals in question deserve an opportunity to live their lives in a loving, stress-free environment. This can be done through educated adoption or transfer.

Kansas currently is the only state in the US that doesn't allow the adoption or transfer of FIV positive or Felv positive cats. Shelters and rescues in Kansas must make the difficult decision to keep them on the premises or euthanize them. At the same time, our counterparts only miles away are able to find comfortable placement for them for their lifetime.

I feel strongly on this topic, and that it is an issue of compassion. These are not livestock animals. I ask that you support Senate Bill 117. I would be happy to answer any questions to the best of my ability.

Sincerely,

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