



GINGER BARR

9421 SW Hoch Road
Auburn, Kansas 66402

Home/office: 785-256-2788 Cell: 785-2562788
ginger@gingerbarr.com

To: Chairman Kerschen, and members of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
From: Ginger Barr, Citizen
RE: The creation of the Animal Facilities Inspection Division at the Kansas Department of Agriculture
Date: March 17, 2022

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

My name is Ginger Barr and I served in the Kansas House of Representatives from 1981-1989. While in the legislature I served as Committee Chairman of Federal and State Affairs Committee. I was one of the chief architects of the Animal Facilities Inspection Program. I have continued to monitor the program through the years. I was not surprised to learn that the Kansas Post Audit gave the program a deficiency rating.

I am not affiliated with any group that lobbies for animal issues, such as breeders, humane societies, state universities, etc. I have no hidden agenda. I am just speaking up for what is right and in the best interest of our state.

The AFI Program was only once run correctly and that was under the supervision of George Teagarden as Kansas Livestock Commissioner. George and I served in the legislature together. He hired Debra Duncan who I believe he had worked with in the Legislative Budget with the House Ways and Means Committee. Ms. Duncan hired good inspectors, and everyone worked for the betterment of the program. It wasn't perfect, but it was the best years for the AFI program. They were fair in their dealings.

We now have an opportunity with passage of Senate Bill 551 to make the AFI Program the best in the country.

1. Dogs and Cats are domestic pet animals and they and much of their offspring are brought into people's homes. They are not nor should they be confused with utilitarian animals such as cattle, hogs, etc.
2. In 2020 Kansas Ag Growth supported and promoted pet food manufacturing plants in the KC Animal Health Corridor that stretches from Columbia, Missouri to Manhattan, Kansas. Currently, our Animal Health Corridor does not protect the pet animals and pet breeding stock that we are trying to promote. We can do better!

3. Breeders, shelters, rescues, boarding facilities, etc. all need to be inspected. Not only for the protection of the pet animals but also the families that purchase or adopt their pet.
4. Kansas should be a national leader for pet animal health.
5. If a program is done correctly under the Kansas Pet Animal Act, it could be marketed as a wonderful resource for Kansas commerce.

I ask you to protect pet animals, support the work of shelters and rescues by passing SB 551.