

March 15, 2023

RE: Proponent of HB 2437

To whom this may concern;

My name is Christy Fischer and I'm the Director of the Wichita Animal Action League. We are a Kansas state rescue licensed under the Kansas Pet Animal Act and serve the areas of Sedgwick County and Wichita. Thank you for the opportunity to voice my thoughts on the much needed changes to the Kansas Pet Animal Act, and we support the changes recommended in HB2437. As a former law enforcement officer and nationally certified animal cruelty investigator, I have seen firsthand the horrors that animals can face in both our state and elsewhere.

As I know that everyone's time is valuable, I'll just make a few points about some of the changes being recommended by HB 2437:

- The requirement that all animals should have access to a continual water source is not only an industry best practice, but also a veterinarian-recommended one. Access to water at all times is a critical need and one that every animal should be afforded.
- Allowing the Commissioner to enter into contracts or agreements with licensed shelters or rescues for the purpose of seizing, transporting, housing, and providing care for seized animals is a much needed change that will positively impact hundreds of animals annually. As the State does not have a holding facility for seized animals, this makes it extremely difficult for investigators to do their jobs and seize in those situations that are bad enough to warrant the action.
- In addition, the seizing entity (or the one who has agreed to take responsibility for costs associated with any aspect of the seizure) should be able to bill the alleged perpetrator for any of all costs occurred. This should include but not be limited to: veterinary bills, transportation, housing bills, feed bills, farrier bills, and any other reasonable care and services costs recommended by a veterinarian or other industry professional. State Law already allows this practice to be utilized in cases of criminal seizures for animal cruelty so to not allow it in cases under the Kansas Pet Animal Act is counterproductive and illogical.

Thank you for your time and consideration in considering HB2437. It is both my professional and personal opinion that these changes are necessary, responsible, and ethical. These changes will allow State staff to do their jobs in a more efficient manner, will allow the State and other contracted parties to recoup costs in many cases, and will result in more animal lives being positively impacted.

Thank you for your time,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christina Fischer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christina Fischer

Executive Director

Wichita Animal Action League

Wichita, Kansas