



Written Testimony in Support of HB2542

Before the House Committee on Agricultural and Natural Resources by Amber Bowlby, President of the Kansas Animal Control Association

Representative Rahjes and Committee Members,

As President of the Kansas Animal Control Association, which represents animal control officers and animal welfare agencies around the state, I fully support the changes as proposed in this bill and there are many reasons why. These changes are important for improving the care of our pet animals in Kansas and have minimal fiscal impact to the state. There is no legitimate reason **not** to pass this bill.

Providing dogs and cats with continuous access to potable water should have been in the Pet Act from fruition; this only applies to licensed facilities when pet animals are on premises. It does not apply when pets animals are in transit or when otherwise recommended by a vet. This improvement will have minimal impact on licensees, but enforceable if needed.

House bill 2542 permits the Animal Health Commissioner to adopt regulations regarding exercise and socialization, and morbidity and mortality. This addition is just a provision that will allow the Commission to adopt such regulation if determined necessary, but not required to.

Rescue network representatives need to be a part of the Kansas Pet Animal Advisory Board (KPAAB). When rescues were added as a distinct license category in 1996, a representative was not added to KPAAB. This group now represents 16% of the organizations and needs to have a seat on the Board.

Closing inspections are needed. The 2018 Legislative Post Audit Report specifically recommends that the Animal Facilities Inspection (AFI) program needs to conduct closing inspections to ensure that facilities have indeed closed. Requiring certain licensees to notify the commissioner at least ten days prior to closing business is necessary, so there can be a quick visual inspection to confirm that operations have stopped and there are no more pet animals on premises.

If a shelter/humane society holds an animal for another entity, whether it be for court, boarding purposes, or some other reason, that shelter should absolutely be compensated, even if the animal is wrongfully seized. Some may get restitution from the court, but typically do not, and this change will help to alleviate that.

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Again, there is no legitimately good reason not to pass this bill. I thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amber S. Bowlby". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Amber S. Bowlby
President

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