



**TO:** House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources – Chairman Ken Rahjes

**FROM:** Megan Kilgore, Kansas Veterinary Medical Association

**RE:** Neutral Testimony on HB 2437 – Pertaining to animal facility inspections and the licenses thereof

**DATE:** March 20, 2023

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Chairman Rahjes and members of the committee, on behalf of the Kansas Veterinary Medical Association (KVMA) I want to thank you for the opportunity to provide neutral testimony on HB 2437 relating to animal facility inspections and the terms, requirements, and fees contained in the Kansas pet animal act. KVMA is the only statewide professional membership organization dedicated exclusively to veterinary medicine and the interests of the veterinary team.

The KVMA supports efforts to ensure animal facilities in Kansas are properly registered and inspected by the appropriate authorities. Recommended changes to HB 2437 include language specific to a licensed veterinarian’s operation of a “pound, animal shelter, boarding, or training kennel”. The new language indicates that a licensed veterinarian who operates a “pound, animal shelter, boarding, or training kennel” as part of their veterinary premise is not required to obtain a specific license with the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA). A licensed veterinary premise is inspected by the Kansas Board of Veterinary Examiners (KBVE). The veterinarian is required to pay an annual fee for a veterinary premise license.

However, if a licensed veterinarian is operating a “pound, animal shelter, boarding, or training kennel” separate from their licensed veterinary premise, the new language indicates a veterinarian must obtain a license through the KDA. While the KVMA understands the principal behind the requested change, we want to ensure the veterinarian is not being charged two license fees if the veterinarian owns and operates both facilities as a whole.

For example, if veterinarian X owns a veterinary practice and has properly licensed the premise with the Kansas Board of Veterinary Examiners but has outgrown their main facility, thus expanding to a stand-alone facility, under the recommended language would veterinarian X be required to obtain a license from the KDA? The KVMA would recommend that the new facility be considered under the veterinary premise license.

If in fact there are two separate businesses, owned and operated by a licensed veterinarian in Kansas, the KVMA would support a separate license for the “pound, animal shelter, boarding, or training kennel” with the KDA. It is important to the KVMA and our members that animals which are housed in an animal shelter, of any kind, are properly cared for and receive appropriate medical care by a licensed veterinarian.

The KVMA requests the committee ensure a veterinarian will not be burdened with two license requirements, the fees associated with both, and the need for two inspections at one facility. The KVMA is confident the KBVE can provide the oversight and inspection necessary for a veterinary operated “pound, animal shelter, boarding, or training kennel” as part of their licensed veterinary premise. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on HB 2437.