



TO: House Agriculture Committee; Representative Hoffman, Chair

FROM: Megan Kilgore, Kansas Veterinary Medical Association

RE: Testimony on H.B. 2477 relating to the Kansas Pet Animal Act

DATE: January 29, 2018

---

Chairman Hoffman and members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to submit written testimony before this committee in support of H.B. 2477 relating to the Kansas Pet Animal Act. My name is Megan Kilgore. I am providing this testimony in my role as Executive Director of the Kansas Veterinary Medical Association. The KVMA is the only statewide professional membership organization dedicated exclusively to veterinary medicine and the interests of the veterinary team.

It is estimated that roughly 650 thousand dogs and 710 thousand cats are owned in Kansas. Many of these pets are obtained from shelters, breeders, and pet shop operators. The Animal Facilities Inspection (AFI) program, administered by the Kansas Department of Agriculture, provides regulatory authority to ensure reasonable welfare standards are met for breeders, retailers, and shelters.

In addition, AFI works to ensure routine and preventive medical care is provided under the direction of a licensed veterinarian. If program revenue is not increased, public health may become a risk with the potential transmission of a zoonotic disease from an uninspected shelter, breeder, or pet shop. The proposed fee increases in H.B. 2477 will allow the AFI program to continue to provide necessary oversight for animal and public welfare.

I urge the committee to support H.B. 2477. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony today.