

**From:** Toni  
**To:** [John Willey](#)  
**Subject:** HB 2477 House Agriculture Committee  
**Date:** Sunday, January 28, 2018 22:12:26

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January 30, 2018

Re: HB 2477

House Agricultural Committee

Dear Chair Hoffman and Members of the Committee:

I am writing you today to ask that you oppose HB 2447, a bill to raise fees for the Animal Facility Inspection Program (AFI).

My name is Toni Wenger and I am President of Kansas K-9 ResQ, Inc. We have been working with Wichita Animal Services and Kansas Humane Society for the last 18 years to rehome stray and unwanted pets in our area. In that time we have taken in over 800 homeless dogs, attended to their health issues and found them homes. Our rescue is a foster home network, we currently have 16 licensed foster homes. Kansas K-9 ResQ, Inc. is a 501(c)3 organization and all our work is done by volunteers.

Stray and homeless dogs typically have not had good health care, and so have many and severe issues. We have taken in dogs with serious health issues such as broken bones, heart worm infections, parvo, kennel cough, decaying and broken teeth, untreated ear infections, skin diseases etc. We have also taken dogs whose health was so deteriorated that they stayed in hospice care in their foster home until euthanasia was in their best interest. In 2017, our average veterinary cost per dog was over \$600. Our \$150 adoption fee does not begin to cover the veterinary expense, much less the dog food and other expenses for our dogs. We continue to operate only due to our volunteers who work hard with fundraising efforts and to generous donors.

In all the 18 years we have been in operation, we have passed every inspection with no violations and no need for a return visit by inspectors. We always welcome the inspectors to review our files and records. We have typically been inspected every 2 to 3 years. Each time we receive a notice from the State to change any of the processes for managing and documenting our foster homes and dogs in our care, we comply.

If an increase is needed to fund the Animal Facility Inspection Program, the entities who are causing the largest drain of resources should shoulder the increase. Those businesses who profit by the breeding of pets should bear the cost of the Animal Facility Inspection Program, not the non-profits who work to find humane solutions for the pets who get thrown away.

I ask you to oppose HB 2447 which would increase the fees for rescues and shelters. Please do not take any more of our hard earned donations away from animal care. I am happy to answer any questions regarding Kansas K-9 ResQ, Inc.

Toni Wenger, President  
Kansas K-9 ResQ, Inc.  
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