

Chairman Kerschen and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to share my written testimony today regarding House Bill 2477, the Pet Animal Act with the Karleskint amendment. I'm a strong proponent of this bill and its amendment. I have been a Kansas Humane Society volunteer for 10 years and a foster family for 8 years. I'm a member of the South Central Kansas Animal Response Team and I sit on the Sedgwick County Animal Control Advisory Board.

Last year, when this act came before this Committee, there were several inefficiencies in the Animal Facility Inspection Program, including the amount of money spent on no contact inspections, failed inspections, focused inspections, and re-inspections. The Legislature overwhelmingly supported inspections and re-inspections without raising fees on shelters or rescues.

HB2477 does three things:

- It modestly raises fees on shelters;
- It addresses those actually incurring the resources for failed, no contact, or re-inspections
- It doesn't allow for prior notice to be given of inspections for any licensee.

The bill includes no licensing requirements for shelter and rescue animal foster homes. It will treat all licensees equally and charges fees to those who have actually incurred them.

The Kansas Pet Animal Act was created to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of Kansas companion animals. In most homes, pets are regarded as family members. Let's improve the integrity of the Animal Facility Inspection Program by passing HB2477 as amended by the House. Kansas has a horrible reputation as a puppy mill state. The burden for caring for the fall out of puppy mills and backyard breeders has fallen on shelters, rescues, and foster homes for too long. Change that today and vote for the bill as amended by the House.

Respectfully,

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