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Dear Representative Kerschen and Members of the Senate Agriculture Committee:

I am writing as a strong supporter of House Bill 2477 as amended by the Kansas House of Representatives. I am quite familiar with the Kansas Pet Animal Act as one of the chief architects of the program in the late 1980's. After retiring from the Kansas Legislature, I continued to observe as well as participate on the small companion animal issues as a private citizen. In other words, I understand the subject! Therefore, I'll be brief, to the point and blunt.

I have never talked with a good breeder, pet store, vet clinic, rescue or shelter that has ever feared unannounced inspections. They are confident in showing their facilities, animals and proper record keeping. **Those that fear the inspections fear them because they know that they should improve their business operations. Remember, Kansas standards are minimal.**

Giving any business that is regulated advanced notification that it inspects is not using commonsense. That philosophy does not protect the animals (especially breeding stock) nor does it protect the consumer who is purchasing or using various services regarding animals.

As policy makers it is up to us to make sure that Kansas protects its reputation as being a forward thinking, responsible state who respects the dignities of all whether they are a child, senior citizen or companion animal. House Bill 2477 deals with cats and dogs that end up in people's homes for many years. Whether the dog comes from a breeder, rescue or shelter, they deserve a good, healthy product.

Please feel free to contact me if you want my lengthy version of this issue. I pray that commonsense continues on this issue and the Senate follows the decision of the House.

Respectfully,

Ginger Barr

Kansas House of Representatives
1982-1990