

Dear Chair Kerschen and Members of the Committee:

I am sending written testimony to ask you to support Kansas animals by voting in favor of HB 2477 as amended by the full House.

As an active member of the Wichita animal rescue community I support this bill with amendments as written for three reasons:

1. The bill would not require individuals who provide temporary care to be licensed as long as written agreement is on file by the animal shelter/rescue. This would significantly impact operating costs for nonprofit entities and allow a quicker response time to last-minute animal rescues – a few hours of delay to determine placement could mean euthanasia for an otherwise adoptable animal.
2. The bill requires no notice of inspections to licensees, creating an even playing field and ensures animal health, safety and welfare. It is imperative that we extend the same regulations equally and across the board to breeders, hobby breeders, shelters, rescues, and anyone tasked with caring for live beings in the interest of animal health and welfare.
3. The bill places fees on licensees who fail inspections or have no contact inspections, placing the burden on those who do not “play by the rules” without penalizing those who do things by the book and adequately care for the animals in their charge. The bill raises fees on shelters *modestly*, while still addressing the resource challenges that come with no-contact inspections. Nonprofits and rescues are instrumental in curbing the pet overpopulation problem that plagues our communities and these fees would allow them to continue to operate and make an impact in local communities.

The amendments are vital and ensure the integrity of the animal facility inspection program, keeping the health, safety and welfare of Kansas companion animals as the utmost priority. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,  
Candice Smythe

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