



My name is Carla Lewis, and I am sending written testimony on behalf of the Kansas Animal Control Association in support of HB 2477 as amended by the full House.

Last year we supported the Pet Animal Bill as amended by the senate. This year, HB 2477, amended on the House floor to include these same provisions, passed with a vote of 103-14.

The Kansas Animal Control Association supports the amendments made in the House:

- No prior notice of inspections
- Re-inspection, failed inspection and no contact inspection fees
- Increased fees

As animal control officers and investigators, we would never give someone prior notice of an inspection or investigation because it nullifies the integrity of that inspection or investigation. The whole idea is to look at what is going on with the animals and any prior notice can change what is actually happening at the premises.

As legislators, you strive to make sure that government programs are fair, effective, and accountable. Likewise, you are the watchdog for taxpayers who fund these programs. For many years, the legislature rejected increasing licensing fees on shelters and rescues. After hearings and debate, the House has chosen to put the burden onto those licensees that are failing inspections, requiring re-inspections and no contact inspections by charging fees and not allowing them to use up valuable resources from the AFI budget.

The Pet Animal Act governs the health, safety and welfare of companion animals in our state. You have the ability to protect people and animals and further the integrity of the AFI program for the state of Kansas.

I urge you to support HB 2477 as amended from the House.

Please feel free to contact me if you should have any questions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carla Lewis", written in a cursive style.

Carla Lewis, President
Kansas Animal Control Association