



03/23/2021,

Written Testimony in Proponent of SB269

Before the Senate Ag Committee by Amber Bowlby, President of the Kansas Animal Control Association

Senator Kerschen and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Kansas Animal Control Association, I am providing written testimony in proponent of SB269 – the regulation of dangerous animals in Kansas.

The changes within this bill are necessary to help prevent the private ownership of currently unregulated dangerous animals within the state of Kansas; specifically, non-human primates and wolves. As a former Zoo employee and Animal Control employee, and current President of the Kansas Animal Control Association, I can attest that there is no logical reason why a private citizen should own one of these animals. Beyond the obvious physical dangers of such aggressive animals, there are a myriad of zoonotic diseases these animals carry that need to come into consideration.

I can also assure you that no police department, sheriff's office, health department, or animal control agency is equipped to deal with such an animal. When a jurisdiction is too small to employ animal control, it is the police officers or code enforcement who have had no training on exotic animals that would have to go out and handle these calls, placing themselves in unnecessary danger. Many cities (including my own) do not have ordinances against such animals, so they have to rely on the State statutes and regulations. In the wake of the popular docuseries on Netflix, Tiger King, the ownership of exotic and dangerous animals is more appealing than ever, which is why we need you to be proactive rather than reactive in passing this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amber Bowlby". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Amber S. Bowlby
President

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