

## MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sharon Schwartz at 3:30pm on Monday, January 26, 2015, 346-S of the Capitol.

All members were present

Committee staff present:

Joanna Wochner, Legislative Research Department  
Shirley Jepson, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant  
Natalie Scott, Office of Revisor of Statutes  
David Wiese, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

No conferees present

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

### **Bill introductions**

There were no bill introductions.

### **Hearing on: HB2030 — Amendments to the Kansas pet animal act.**

Natalie Scott, Revisor of Statutes, provided an overview of **HB 2030**, noting that the bill makes amendments to the pet animal act ([Attachment 1](#)).

Dr. Bill Brown, Kansas Livestock Commissioner, Department of Agriculture, appeared before the Committee to provide testimony in support of **HB 2030** ([Attachment 2](#)). Dr. Brown stated that the bill as written has the support of the Pet Animal Advisory Board, who has taken an active role in the writing of the legislation. Dr. Brown noted that currently several areas of concern which are addressed with **HB 2030**:

- Animal breeders and distributors licensed with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) are exempt from KDA "adequate veterinary medical" requirements creating two primary concerns: (1) many of the USDA facilities are also licensed with KDA; however, KDA inspectors do not have access to USDA veterinary care records for these facilities. In addition, (2) failure to provide adequate veterinary medical care is a reason the Commissioner may suspend or revoke a permit as stated in Kansas statute. If the veterinary medical care requirement does not extend to USDA licensees then neither will have the ability to suspend or revoke a state license if the requirements are not being met.
- Another area of concern is the number of licensee categories. The bill combines group foster home shelter and rescues into one category called a rescue network.

Dr. Brown stated that inspecting pet animal facilities to assure the health, safety and welfare of the animals is an important responsibility for the Department of Agriculture.

Dr. Brown responded to questions from the Committee.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources at 3:30pm on Monday, January 26, 2015, 346-S of the Capitol.

Maureen Cummins, Second Chance Animal Refuge Society, presented testimony in support of **HB 2030** ([Attachment 3](#)). Ms. Cummins stated that she and her husband operate a no-kill, non-profit free roaming shelter for abused and abandoned dogs. Ms. Cummins noted that **HB 2030** has the support of the Kansas Pet Animal Advisory Board, the Department of Agriculture, the Pet Animal Coalition of Kansas and numerous other entities in the state.

Other proponents who presented testimony to the Committee included:

Sharon Munk, Kansas Pet Professionals ([Attachment 4](#)).

Michele Russell, Kansas Pet Professionals ([Attachment 5](#)).

Kate Meghji, Lawrence Humane Society ([Attachment 6](#)).

Michelle Taylor, Chief Veterinarian, Great Plains SPCA ([Attachment 7](#)).

Midge Grinstead, State Director, Humane Society of the U.S. ([Attachment 8](#)).

Courtney Thomas, President/CEO, Great Plains SPCA ([Attachment 9](#)).

Written testimony in support of **HB 2030** was received from:

Jennifer Stone, Lawrence Humane Society ([Attachment 10](#)).

Mike Beam, Kansas Livestock Association ([Attachment 11](#)).

Crystal Blackdeer, President, Leavenworth County Humane Society ([Attachment 12](#)).

The conferees responded to questions from the Committee.

There were no conferees to appear in a neutral position on **HB 2030**.

Steven Hitchcock, Kansas Federation of Animal Owners, appeared before the Committee in opposition to **HB 2030** ([Attachment 13](#)). Mr. Hitchcock argued that granting two entities (USDA and KDA) access to records compiled for one is opening these small business owners to conflicting interpretations and turf wars.

There were no other conferees to come before the committee.

The hearing on **HB 2030** was closed.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for January 27, 2015.