

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sharon Schwartz at 3:30pm on Wednesday, February 03, 2016, 346-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Ponka-We Victors – Excused
Representative Joe Seiwert – Excused

Committee staff present:

Joanna Dolan, Legislative Research Department
Natalie Scott, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department
Shirley Jepson, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant
Kyle Hamilton, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Dr. Bill Brown, Department of Agriculture
Michelle Russell, Kansas Pet Professional
Courtney Thomas, Great Plains SPCA
Lorilee Thomas, Puppies Extraordinaire, LLC
Mark Barnett, appearing on behalf of Sharon Munk, BJSE Guys, Menlo
Steve Hitchcock, Governmental Affairs, Kansas Federation of Animal Owners
Sam Mosshart, Kansas Federation of Animal Owners

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Hearing on: HB2554 — Amending the Kansas pet animal act.

Chair Schwartz opened the hearing on **HB2554**.

Kyle Hamilton, Revisor, presented an explanation of the bill, noting that the bill makes amendments to the pet animal act ([Attachment 1](#)).

Dr. Bill Brown, Animal Health Commissioner, Department of Agriculture, appeared before the Committee in support of **HB2554** ([Attachment 2](#)). Dr. Brown explained that the legislation is an effort to provide clarity and efficiency with the licensing and inspecting of licensed animal pounds and shelters, pet shops, research facilities, distributors, out-of-state distributors, boarding facilities, animal rescues and foster homes. Dr. Brown stated that the Animal Facilities Inspection Program is dedicated to supporting the companion animal industry in Kansas.

Responding to questions from the Committee, Dr. Brown noted that the bill realigns fees to support the

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program rather than depend on funding from the state general fund (SGF).

Michelle Russell, Kansas Pet Professional, appeared before the Committee in support of **HB2554** ([Attachment 3](#)). Ms. Russell noted that the board of directors of Kansas Pet Professionals stand united in support of **HB2554** as written.

Courtney Thomas, Great Plains SPCA, appeared before the Committee in support of **HB2554** ([Attachment 4](#)). Ms. Thomas noted that this bill updates critical components of the Kansas Pet Animal Act, allowing licensed rescues and shelters to utilize mobile adoption sites and expanding the Kansas Pet Animal Advisory Board to include a licensed Rescue Network Representative.

Lorilee Thomas, Puppies Extraordinaire, LLC, appeared before the Committee in support of **HB2554** as it is written, without amendments ([Attachment 5](#)) .

In the absence of Sharon Munk, Mark Barnett, appeared before the Committee to present Ms. Munk's testimony ([Attachment 6](#)). Mr. Barnett stated that they support the fees and other elements in **HB2554** without amendments.

Written testimony in support of **HB2554** was received from:
Mike Beam, Kansas Livestock Association ([Attachment 7](#))

Steve Hitchcock, Governmental Affairs, Kansas Federation of Animal Owners, appeared in opposition to **HB2554** ([Attachment 8](#)). Mr. Hitchcock stated that **HB2554** eliminates current law and replaces it with one that creates an environment which leaves licensees with a less stable and predictable regulatory climate. Mr. Hitchcock indicated that breeders of companion animals who hold a required USDA license are subject to double inspections, regulations, licensing and fees. Mr. Hitchcock felt that **HB2554** places an additional burden on these facilities.

Sam Mosshart, President, Kansas Federation of Animal owners, appeared before the Committee in opposition to **HB2554** ([Attachment 9](#)). Mr. Mosshart noted that he would like to see all facilities inspected, licensed and treated equally.

Written testimony in opposition to **HB2554** was received from:
Suzanne Harvey, Gupton's House Vet, Wichita, KS ([Attachment 10](#)) ;
Rebecca Mosshart, Member of Kansas Federation ([Attachment 11](#));
Darcy L. Smith, Bennington, Kansas ([Attachment 12](#));
Vanita Blundell, Wilmore, Kansas ([Attachment 13](#));
Representative Randy Garber, 62nd District ([Attachment 14](#)).

The hearing on **HB2554** was closed.

Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.

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Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 pm. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on February 4, 2016.

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