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To: Senate Agriculture Committee, Garrett Love, Chairman

From: Terry Humphrey, Lobbyist for Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)

Date: February 13, 2013

RE: Support SB 57 with amendments, amending the Kansas Pet Animal Act.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am Terry Humphrey, lobbyist for the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). Both organizations represent thousands of Kansas members who are concerned about the health and welfare of companion animals. I am here today to voice our support for the amendments to SB 57 that have been recommended by the Pet Animal Coalition of Kansas (PACK).

There is much to be commended in the bill as it now stands. Stakeholders have worked cooperatively to make significant improvements, including:

- Ensuring that inspections “shall” be conducted vs. “may” be conducted;
- Allowing inspectors to review USDA licensed veterinary records;
- Adding a rescue network member to the Pet Animal Advisory Board; and
- Prohibiting the use of carbon monoxide chambers for euthanasia.

These and other improvements will go a long way toward helping Kansas eliminate substandard facilities, prevent the spread of contagious disease, and protect consumers while reducing the burden on animal shelters and rescue networks across the state.

While much has been accomplished to date, the bill still needs some important refinements, including:

- **Establish a regular inspection schedule.** This is vital to ensuring that licensees are following the rules. We support PACK’s recommendation of annual inspections for the first two years and then every 18 months thereafter if the licensee is without violations. If there are violations, the annual inspection schedule resumes.

- **Add one more animal shelter representative to the Pet Animal Advisory Board.**
Shelters and rescue networks represent the largest number of licensees, which should be reflected in the Board's membership.
- **The Governor should make all appointments to the Pet Animal Advisory Board.**
Furthermore, all appointments except the private citizen should be licensees in good standing with the Kansas Pet Animal Act.
- **Fees need to be reconsidered and adjusted.**

We are confident that these and other revisions to SB 57 will be beneficial to the state. We look forward to working with the Department of Agriculture and all of the stakeholders to ensure that Kansas is a leader in animal health and welfare.