



Chair Hoffman and Members of the Committee

My name is Mark Eby, I am the President/CEO of the Kansas Humane Society in Wichita Kansas. KHS is the largest shelter in Kansas with over 15,000 animals under our care in 2016. We found homes for 10,330 and had a live release rate of 87%. Our yearly budget is around \$4M, all of which is funded through private donations and services. We also provide 2,000 low income spay/neuter surgeries.

I ask you today to move **HB 2097** forward to the full house with amendments that would address the following:

2016 Board of Directors

Sarah Hicks-Neisius, DVM
Chair

Esther Headley
Vice Chair

Stuart Ray
Vice President of Finance and Treasurer

Cathy Schmitt
Vice President of Programs and Secretary

- Make licensees accountable and charge a fee for re-inspections, no contacts or refusal visits and failing an inspection.
- Licensees should not be notified of an inspection unless they have not failed inspections for three years.
- Licensees that fail 3 inspections in 24 months should have their license revoked.
- Amend the \$30 for fosters to \$20. These are individuals helping shelters and rescues across the state and tripling their fee seems excessive.

The following changes in the bill will have a great impact on animals, shelters and rescues in our state:

Debi Allison
 Pamela Clancy Ammar
 Janet M. Arnet, DVM
 Kelly Benton
 Dennis I. Clary
 Margaret Dechant
 Greg R. Gough
 Shelly Hammond
 Donald R. LacKamp
 Ed Larson
 Kim Lett
 Tim McKee
 Doug Nolte
 Glenn Nyberg
 Brandon R. Paulseen
 Ann Ramseyer
 Dan Waller

1. **Access to medical records:** It is critically important that we provide Inspectors for the Department of Agriculture the appropriate tools to perform their jobs. Inspectors should have access to all medical records for pets in the possession of all licensees. Currently in the KPAA, Inspectors do not have access to medical records for USDA licensed facilities. Such records are essential for Inspectors to ensure that animals on premise are receiving adequate and appropriate medical care. Failure to allow Inspectors access to medical records for USDA licensed facilities costs the state, the department and our constituents money.
2. **Premise inspection schedule:** The change in language in section 8 (b) from “may” inspect to “shall” inspect is an important improvement to the law. Defining the frequency schedule of inspections in the statute, based on performance history of a premise, will give the department the ability to devote their time and resources where they are most needed, focusing on those facilities that continually have violations or fail inspections
3. **Offsite Adoptions:** Adoption events off of the premise of shelters and rescues is critical in getting animals adopted into permanent loving homes and gives them other avenues for adoption.

Mark Eby
President/CEO

The Kansas Humane Society is funded by private donations, is not a United Way agency, and is not affiliated with the Humane Society of the United States.

I hope you will move this bill forward with amendments to help the Dept. of Ag. protect the health, safety and welfare of companion animals in KS. Thank you.

Sincerely,