

To: House Agriculture Committee

From: Carla Lewis, President, Kansas Animal Control Association

Date: March 14, 2017

RE: Support SB 47 with Amendments

Chair Hoffman and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on Senate Bill 47.

My name is Carla Lewis, I am the President of the Kansas Animal Control Association and have been an Animal Control Officer in the State of Kansas for 6 years. I am speaking to you today in support of SB-47 with amendments added by the Senate Ag Committee. This Bill passed out of the Senate 34-5 and has the support of the Department of Agriculture. These amendments close inspection loopholes by establishing a uniform process of inspecting the premises of breeders and other licensees. The amendments include:

- **All inspections should be unannounced.** *Currently shelter inspections are unannounced but breeders are scheduled by appointment. Best practice would dictate that all inspections be unannounced*
- **A penalty for No-Contact inspections.** *In 2016 no-contact inspections cost the department \$30,000. Each licensee has a specified two hour period two days per week that they are to be available for inspection, if they are unable to be there during that specified time then they must have a designate available. A penalty for no-contact would increase compliance and defray the cost of no-contact inspections.*
- **Establish a fee for failed inspections.** *Fees established for failed inspections and re-inspections will increase compliance and defray the cost of inspections.*
- **Licensees that continue to fail should have their licenses revoked after the third fail within 24 months.** *This protects other licensees and their reputations.*
- **Reduce charges for foster homes from \$30 to \$20.** *Fosters play a vital role in reducing shelter overpopulation, and many fosters pay this fee themselves.*
- **Allow Kansas inspectors to view animal health records of USDA licensed Facilities.**

These amendments are badly needed. The financial drain from no-contact inspections and re-inspections makes fees charged for substandard performance necessary. With SB-47 we can address funding issues by holding licensees accountable and not over-burdening those who are doing a good job.

Thank you for your time