

Chair Hoffman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Randi Carter and I am (1) a Board Member for Beauties and Beasts, Inc. rescue group, (2) co-owner of All Dogs Bark-N-Play boarding facility/doggie daycare and (3) a Foster licensee for Beauties and Beasts, Inc. rescue group.

I am unable to attend the hearing on Wednesday, but I wanted to let you know that I **support** 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.

Why is this important to me? As you can see, I am a licensee in three different capacities: 1) rescue group board member, 2) co-owner of boarding facility/doggie daycare and 3) foster for a rescue group.

It recently came to my attention, that not all licensees under the Kansas Pet Act are treated equally. Naturally, I wanted to know why. After doing a little bit of research into this issue, this one 'why' question turned into several, including the following:

- Why are my boarding facility, rescue and foster licensee inspections unannounced but breeder licensee inspections are frequently scheduled by appointment?
- Why did no-contact inspections cost the department more than \$30,000 in 2016 when all over the news it was a known fact that budget shortfalls was a hot topic for debate in Topeka?
- Why are licensees able to file incomplete applications with no designee listed?
- Why aren't these no-contact licensee inspections being held accountable and assessed fees for failed inspections and re-inspections?
- Why does the department want to raise the fees for foster licensees to \$30? I can tell you from firsthand experience, that even though our rescue group has over 18,000 Facebook followers, it is quite challenging to find fosters. Our fosters aren't wealthy - they are real people who are simply trying to do their part to help save an animal. Why make it even more difficult for us to recruit such life savers? Raising their fees would adversely affect all shelters, humane societies, rescues and most likely reduce the current fosters that we do have.
- Why doesn't the department treat ALL licensees equally?

Rescues and fosters are overwhelmed and overburdened by the enormous costs associated with helping so many homeless animals in the state of Kansas. We are all trying to do our part, but it is

hard not to get discouraged each and every day wondering where that next dollar will come from to spay/neuter a dog or cat, or to cover the incredible medical costs for a puppy mill dog that was discarded like a piece of garbage for no fault of their own but because they are simply bred by irresponsible breeders and then sold unwittingly to the public unhealthy and sick.

We are there to pick up the pieces. We will continue to be there. Our Facebook following continues to grow daily and we are on track to reach 20,000 followers by this summer because many Kansans believe like we do, that every day in an animal's life is important. We believe Kansas can do better.

Please support SB 47 with amendments added by the Senate Ag Committee as passed by the unanimous vote by the Senate and supported by the Department of Agriculture.

I appreciate the opportunity to send in written testimony.

Respectfully,
/s/ Randi Carter

Board Member, Beauties and Beasts, Inc. rescue group
Co-owner, All Dogs Bark-N-Play, boarding facility/doggie daycare
Foster licensee, Beauties and Beasts, Inc. rescue