



To: Chairman Kyle Hoffman
Vice Chair Kent Thompson
Members, House Agriculture Committee

From: Terry Humphrey, Humane Society Legislative Fund of Kansas

Date: March 15, 2017

RE: Support SB 47

Good afternoon Chairman Hoffman and members of the committee. I am Terry Humphrey with the Humane Society Legislative Fund of Kansas (HSLF KS). HSLF KS works to pass animal protection laws at the state and federal levels and to educate the public about animal protection issues. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 47.

Kansas is currently ranked third worst puppy mill state in the country. But thanks to the Senate's passage of SB 47 last month, Kansas is one step closer to eliminating the scourge of puppy mills. That is because SB 47 closes the so-called "inspection loopholes" within the Kansas Pet Animal Act that make it easier for bad actors to skirt the law and for puppy mills to flourish.

Under current law, the Animal Facility Inspection Program, within the Division of Animal Health, is responsible for inspecting the premises of all licensees to ensure that they are in compliance with the Kansas Pet Animal Act. Unfortunately, the Act does not contain clear and consistent inspection and enforcement guidelines necessary to address the problems of unlicensed breeders or substandard licensees. Nor does it contain a process to incentivize licensees to comply with the Act. In other words, AFIP inspectors do not have the tools they need to do their job effectively and efficiently.

SB 47 closes those loopholes by amending the Kansas Pet Animal Act in the following ways:

1. **SB 47 makes *all inspections unannounced*.** This provision encourages licensees to uphold the health and safety standards set forth in the Act all the time, not just in time for inspections.
2. **SB 47 establishes fees for "no-contact inspections,"** i.e., when inspection is denied because the licensee is a no-show. These fees serve the twofold purpose of incentivizing licensees to show up for the inspection and defraying the costs incurred by AFIP inspectors when they don't.

3. **SB 47 establishes fees for failed inspections.** These fees are designed to incentivize licensees to comply with the Act and to defray the costs associated with reinspection.
4. **SB 47 allows licenses to be revoked after three failed inspections in two years.** Again, this provision is intended to encourage compliance with the Act.
5. **SB 47 allows Kansas inspectors to view USDA veterinary records.** This ensures that USDA licensees must also comply with the state's inspection requirements.

Together, these five amendments to the Kansas Pet Animal Act help to close the inspection loopholes that for too long have undermined the effectiveness and efficiency of AFIP inspections.

HSLF Kansas is very pleased that SB 47 passed the Senate by an overwhelming margin of 34 to 5, and was supported by the Department of Agriculture. I hope, Mr. Chairman, that you and your committee members will likewise support this bill. Working together, we can improve the state's pet animal industry and reduce the burden on our pet shelters, rescues and foster homes. Thank you.

