

*Dear Chair Hoffman and Members of the Committee:*

*My name is Tricia Freeman and I am the Founder and President of Freeman Arabian Ranch & Rescue located in Meriden, Kansas. I intend to attend the hearing and offer in-person testimony on Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> in support of SB47 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 breeders' facilities and other licensees.*

*Amendments include:*

- 1. Shelter inspections are currently unannounced and breeder inspections are frequently scheduled by appointment. This practice is biased and unfair. Inspections to breeders should also be unannounced especially because, unlike a shelter and rescue, they do not have frequent visitors to alert authorities to violations and, if they are given advanced notice, they have the opportunity to clean, etc. before the inspectors arrive which gives a false representation of how the animals and facility are kept on a regular daily basis.*
- 2. In 2016 alone, no-contact inspections cost the department over \$30,000.00. Each licensee has a specified two hour period a few days per week when they need to be available for inspection. They are also required to have a designee in the circumstance that they are unavailable during that time period so there really should not be no-contact situations.*
- 3. Fees established for failed inspections and reinspections are incentive to comply and will help defray the costs of these inspections.*
- 4. Licensees who continue to fail inspections should have their licenses revoked after the third fail within a twenty four month period protecting the animals in their facility from substandard care.*
- 5. Charges for foster homes are reduced from \$30.00 to \$20.00.*

*6. Kansas inspectors will be allowed to view animal health records of USDA licensed facilities.*

*These Senate amendments are sorely needed. The financial burden from no-contact inspections and re-inspections is unacceptable making fees charged for substandard performance a necessity. Funding issues must be addressed without penalizing those licensees who are complying with the rules.*

*If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.*

*Sincerely,*

*Tricia Freeman*