

Kansas Federation of Animal Owners

Testimony on HB2477 – Neutral

House Agriculture Committee hearing – January 30, 2018

Steve Hitchcock – KFAO Govt. Affairs

Chairman Hoffman and Committee,

The Kansas Federation of Animal Owners has, for the past several sessions, appeared as an opponent (sometimes the only one) at hearings on bills modifying the Kansas Pet Animal Act. Our reason for doing this can generally be categorized as opposition to the passage of bills modifying the fee schedule of the AFI program that also contained extensive changes to policies and definitions in the program. We have recognized the budgetary need for updating the fee schedule, but have serious reservations about the policy modifications.

We are appearing today as a neutral conferee because HB2477 addresses primarily the fee schedule and only slight modification of categories. We feel strongly that maintaining the distinction between “retail breeders” and dually-licensed USDA/KDA wholesale breeders is in the best interests of the AFI program and these Kansas businesses as it allows a more accurate assessment of where issues arise among licensee categories.

As impetus for the introduction of this bill has come from parties interested in the “balancing” of contributions among the programs in the Animal Health Division of KDA, we would like the KDA to address the issue of “late fees” across the Animal Health Division to ensure that the application of these fees is “balanced.”

We thank the KDA for their work on this streamlined “fee-schedule” bill and look forward to seeing it progress. Thank you.

Steve Hitchcock – KFAO

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