



Leavenworth County Humane Society, Inc.

100 W. Gilman Road, Lansing, KS 66043

www.LCHSInc.org

LvnCoHS@live.com

www.facebook.com/LvnCoHumane

KS Lic CB001XWJ 913-250-0506

EIN 01-0865151

March 12, 2020

Testimony in Opposition to HB 2671

Submitted by Crystal Swann Blackdeer, Executive Director, Leavenworth County Humane Society, Inc., Lansing KS

Mr. Chair and distinguished Representatives:

I oppose dog racing, but what bothers me most about this bill is what it doesn't mention.

There are no provisions in the bill for ensuring the health and sound husbandry of breeding and racing animals nor for prevention / punishment of cruelty. Where are the veterinary requirements, inspection requirements, housing requirements for the dogs?

Tracks who use dogs should be required contribute to the care of their castoffs, as should the breeders who over-produce the animals. They should subsidize the shelters and rescues who step in to take care of the animals the racers no longer find useful.

Transparency and local support should be primary concerns. The voters in any jurisdiction should approve of having a track operation or large scale breeding operation in their area. This does not appear to be the case uniformly.

Breeding, housing and training facilities for racing dogs should be subject to unannounced and quarterly inspection by the Animal Facility Inspection Program.

Dog racing is a failing industry. Even if it weren't harmful to the animals, it loses money. Tracks all across America have closed or are closing because people don't want to watch or bet on the dog races.

Many jobs in dog racing are low-wage, dirty, physical, high noise jobs, those that are often sought by low-skill, low-education employees who are unable to obtain other employment. Proponents of this bill would be wise to consider the overall effect on the communities they represent, not just the potential for income from the operations.

Thank you for your consideration of my input.