

Chair Hoffman and Members of the Committee

My name is Susan Hakes Kaufmann. I am a volunteer, foster and donor for two Kansas shelters in the Kansas City area. I am also active with two animal advocacy groups and recently formed a Coalition of shelters and low-cost vet services to focus intensively on spay/neuter in KCK. Each year, my husband and I foster an average six dogs and dozens of cats and kittens. We are thankful we have the financial means to help, and we are honored to serve with many foster families who do not have the financial means but foster anyway.

I ask you today to move **HB 2097** forward to the full house with amendments that would address the following:

- Make licensees accountable and charge a fee for re-inspections, no contacts or refusal visits and failing an inspection.
- Licensees should not be notified of an inspection unless they have not failed inspections for three years.
- Licensees that fail 3 inspections in 24 months should have their license revoked.
- Amend the \$30 for fosters to \$20. These are individuals helping shelters and rescues across the state and tripling their fee seems excessive.

The following changes in the bill will have a great impact on animals, shelters & rescues in our state:

Access to medical records: It is of critical importance that we provide Inspectors for the Department of Agriculture the appropriate tools to perform their jobs. Inspectors should have access to all medical records for pets in the possession of all licensees. Currently in the KPAA, Inspectors do not have access to medical records for USDA licensed facilities. Such records are essential for Inspectors to ensure that animals on premise are receiving adequate and appropriate medical care. Failure to allow Inspectors access to medical records for USDA licensed facilities costs the state, the department and our constituents' money.

Premise inspection schedule: The change in language in section 8 (b) from "may" inspect to "shall" inspect is a critically important improvement to the law. Defining the frequency schedule of inspections in the statute, based on performance history of a premise, will give the department the ability to devote their time and resources where they are most needed.

Offsite Adoptions: Adoption events off of the premise of shelters and rescues is critical in getting animals adopted into permanent loving homes.

I hope you will move this bill forward with amendments to help the Department of Agriculture to protect the health, safety and welfare of companion animals in Kansas. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Susan Hakes Kaufmann
5400 Norwood Street
Fairway, KS 66205