



**PET INDUSTRY JOINT
ADVISORY COUNCIL**
1615 Duke Street, Suite 100
Alexandria, VA 22314
Tel: 202-452-1525

**TESTIMONY OF THE PET INDUSTRY JOINT ADVISORY COUNCIL ON SENATE
BILL 47 BEFORE THE KANSAS HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
March 16, 2017**

As the world's largest pet trade association, the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC) appreciates the opportunity to offer this committee our views regarding S-47, an Act Amending the Kansas Pet Animal Act. Representing the interests of all segments of the pet industry throughout the United States, PIJAC counts among its thousands of members various associations, organizations, corporations and individuals involved in the commercial pet trade. We represent pet breeders, pet product manufacturers, distributors and retailers throughout Kansas who would be significantly impacted by the proposed amendments before you today.

Let me emphasize that nobody cares more about humane breeding and rearing standards than does PIJAC. We have, for many years, provided a highly respected animal care certification program intended to ensure that employees are well trained in the care of the animals they sell; a program that is widely utilized not only by persons in the commercial pet trade but also shelters and humane societies throughout the country, and one that has even been adopted as a statutory standard. PIJAC has worked closely with the USDA on effective implementation of the Animal Welfare Act for pets since its inception over three decades ago, and has joined hands with state and local agencies to ensure adoption and enforcement of appropriate regulatory standards. Our association has long been recognized as the voice for a responsible pet trade, and routinely advocates for new statutory standards that are in the best interests of companion animals and the pet-owning public. We also continually seek to advance the voluntary implementation of superior standards in the care, handling and transport of companion animals.

While PIJAC could have supported the Kansas Pet Animal Act in the past, we do not support the proposed form. We understand the need for the state to increase its revenue by increasing the cost of license applications and renewals as outlined in Section 13, but feel the additional amendments are overreaching at best. The requirements outlined in the remaining new sections have not been thoroughly vetted and should be given more consideration before passage.

We respectfully urge the committee not to adopt this legislation as currently crafted. PIJAC would be pleased to provide whatever information or assistance the committee may desire in amending this bill to ensure effective legislation for Kansas breeders.

We thank the committee for its consideration of our concerns and welcome any questions that any member may have about this testimony and our recommendations for an effective bill.

Sincerely,

Robert Likins III
Vice President of Government Affairs
Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC)