



Leavenworth County Humane Society, Inc.

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In support of **2017 SB 47** (An Act concerning agriculture, relating to animal health, etc.)

Submitted by Crystal Swann Blackdeer, Executive Director, Leavenworth County Humane Society, Inc.,
Kansas License # CB001LMC

To: Chair, House Committee on Agriculture, the Honorable Kyle Hoffman
Vice Chair, the Honorable Kent Thompson
Ranking Minority Member, the Honorable Sydney Carlin
And members of the Committee

Distinguished Legislators:

Many colleagues and I, in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture, have been advocating for updates to the Kansas Pet Animal Act for at least 5 years now. The Senate most recently passed SB 47 (with a few amendments) by an overwhelming majority.

I strongly support passage of Senate Bill 47 as amended by the House this session.

Fees - Changes to the fee structure will help to make the inspection program self-supporting. The fees proposed for licensing are reasonable and necessary. Adding fees for missed or refused inspections and for re-inspections subsequent to a failed inspection make those who are "problem" licensees pay for the extra work they cause the Department. Any licensee who fails 3 inspections in a 2 year period should have their license revoked.

Inspections – Regular visits from Animal Health inspectors encourage compliance with statutes and regulations. "Shall inspect" is much more appropriate than "may inspect." No licensee should receive prior notice of an inspection, especially those who have a history of violations.

Veterinary Records – Inspectors must have access to veterinary records for animals under licensee care. It is impossible to judge if an animal is receiving proper care without seeing a veterinary record. Denying inspectors access to veterinary records creates opportunity for unhealthy animals and unsound husbandry to undermine the Kansas pet animal industry.

Kansas Pet Animal Advisory Board – Rescue networks are an entirely different "animal" than shelters. They are a different category of licensee, and should have their own representation on the Board. From 2009 until 2016, LCHS, Inc. paid our fees, we complied with the KPAA, but we had zero representation on the Advisory Board.

I advocate for the Private Citizen on the Board to be someone NOT affiliated with the pet animal industry. This person in essence represents the CONSUMER. They should not only have no professional relationship with a licensee, they should not be related to them by blood or marriage.

Off-site adoptions – Allowing shelters & rescues to do off-site adoptions is life-saving. Not everyone will visit an animal shelter, and rescue networks have no central location the public can visit. As long as documentation and care requirements are met, the physical setting where paperwork is signed (adoption) is irrelevant.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input in support of SB 47.