



TO: House Agriculture Committee

FROM: Midge Grinstead, Senior State Director, Humane Society of the United States

DATE: January 30, 2017

RE: Support SB 47 with Amendments

Chairman Kerschen and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on Senate Bill 47.

I am the senior state director for The Humane Society of the United States. As a past shelter director, licensee, and member of the Governor's Companion Animal Advisory Board, I know the important role that shelters, rescues and foster homes play in animal welfare in our state, and I support them in their efforts. As Kansas state director, I have helped these licensees handle the problems and demands of daily shelter life, including the burdens and stresses that result from puppy mills, animal overpopulation, cruelty and abandonment. By adding rescue networks and including a rescue network representative on the Governor's Companion Animal Board and by allowing mobile adoptions, HB 2097 improves our state's ability to respond to these demands. However, it does nothing to reduce those demands or prevent the conditions that give rise to many of the animal welfare problems in the first place.

HB 2097 fails to address the serious problem that contributes to Kansas' shameful ranking as third worst puppy mill state in the country: Our inefficient and ineffective inspection program.

The Animal Facilities Inspection Program (AFIP), within the Division of Animal Health, lacks the clear and consistent inspection and enforcement guidelines necessary to address unlicensed and substandard licensees—aka puppy mills. AFIP's inspections are neither consistent nor effective, and there is little incentive for licensees who fail inspections to comply. That is why we recommend the following changes:

1. Inspections schedules should be written into the law (including annual frequency requirements with no prior notice to licensees).
2. There should be specific consequences for licensees who fail inspection. Any licensee that fails an inspection should have to pay the costs for re-inspection, \$100 for the first re-inspection and \$200 for the second re-inspection. Licensees that fail a third inspection in 24 months should have their license revoked.

The Legislature has the power to address the Kansas puppy mill problem. The first step is to strengthen the Animal Facility Inspection Program by adopting new statutory requirements with regard to inspections and enforcement thereof. Attached are specific amendments for your consideration.

These common-sense changes in our state's inspection process will go a long way in reducing the number of sick and un-socialized dogs and cats in communities across Kansas.

I respectfully request that you adopt these amendments and pass SB 47.

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