

Written Testimony in Support of HB2542

Before the House Committee on Agricultural and Natural Resources by Susan Hakes Kaufmann, Founder of Meowy Matchmakers Rescue Group

Representative Rahjes and Committee Members,

I have been working for more than twenty years helping animals find good homes through animal rescue groups and currently am the founder of the Meowy Matchmakers (MM). I definitely support the changes to the Kansas Pet Animal Act provided in House Bill 2542. MM is based in Lenexa, Kansas and is a cat rescue organization dedicated to saving the lives of cats in need and finding them loving forever homes. The changes in HB 2542 are important for improving the care of cats in Kansas and would give rescues a voice in decision making.

First and foremost, rescue organizations need to have a voice at the table. Currently, there are more than fifty rescue operations in the state right now. Rescue network representatives need to be a part of the Kansas Pet Animal Advisory Board (KPAAB). When rescues were added as a distinct license category in 1996, a representative was not added to KPAAB. When you see how rescues continue to play a major role in helping with the overwhelming overpopulation of pets, it is important to include them on the Advisory Board. This addition to KPAAB is long overdue and is an important addition to the Kansas Pet Animal Act.

Also, providing dogs and cats with continuous access to potable water is important. Water is one of the most important aspects to pet care. This only applies to licensed facilities when pet animals are on premises. It does not apply when pets animals are in transit or when otherwise recommended by a vet. This improvement will have minimal impact to licensees, but enforceable if needed.

Again, there is no legitimately good reason not to pass this bill. I thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Susan Hakes Kaufmann
President