



SBM KENNELS

*Striving to raise dogs sound
in body and mind since 1981*

February 4, 2013

Senators of the Agriculture Committee:

RE: SB 57

This year marks 31 years that I have been raising dogs for pets. I have been licensed by the USDA and the State of Kansas for the majority of those years. During those years we have worked closely not only with our personal Veterinarian, but also attended many seminars, lectures and continuing education classes so that we could raise and care for our dogs in the most humane and professional way.

I would like to know just how much money is spent annually for each division covered by the Kansas Pet Animal Act. Do you have enough information to on this to make an informed decision? What percentage of the expenditures is used for enforcing the regulations on licensed facilities and what percentage is spent on unlicensed facilities?

This law was constructed to parallel the rules and regulations of the USDA's Animal Welfare Act for USDA licensed kennels. It should **definitely stay that way** to avoid confusion and trying to serve two masters.

As I understand it the reason for having the Dept. of Ag take over the administrative and enforcement duties of the Kansas Pet Animal Act was to help eliminate the cost of running duplicate services by the Dept. of Ag and the Kansas Animal Health Dept. So why do they think they need more money? As a taxpayer I don't believe there are very many (if any) business that are required to be licensed and inspected by both a Federal and a State entity. Are rest homes, feed yards, packing plants, restaurants, day cares, etc. required to be licensed and inspected by both Federal and State agencies?

The USDA now has a licensed Veterinarian who accompanies the regular USDA inspector on many of their inspections. The Kansas law is a **PREMISES** inspection program, not a **Business** inspection program. There is **absolutely no reason** for the State inspectors to be digging around in our medical records or procedures. There are quite often several different approved courses of treatment for different situations, and once again it is difficult to serve two masters.

The Animal Advisory Board, presently appointed by the Governor, was developed as an aide to guide lawmakers in common sense construction of regulations. The Governor should continue to appoint the members of the Animal Advisory Board!

All in all, SB 57 is a poorly thought out bill and should be killed so that the Dept. of Ag, the Animal Advisory Board and those affected by these regulations can sit down, discuss and agree on all changes.

If Governor Brownback and this committee are really sincere in creating a "business friendly" atmosphere for Kansas, SB 57 definitely does not follow that line of thinking.

Sincerely

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Professional Organization Memberships:
Kansas Federation of Animal Owners
Kansas Pet Professionals
Missouri Pet Breeders Association
Oklahoma Pet Professionals