

Lawrence Humane Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 651 • Lawrence, Kansas 66044-0651

February 12, 2013

TO: Agriculture Commission

From: Jennifer Stone, DVM

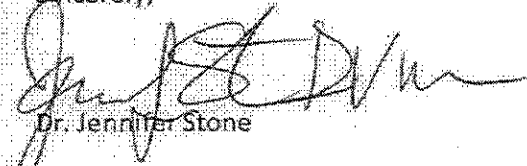
RE: Testimony on SB 57 for 2/13/13.

As a shelter veterinarian, I am here to encourage annual inspections of licensed animal facilities in Kansas. I support the amendment that would allow up to 18 months between inspections for facilities that pass two consecutive reviews. The most important thing is that all facilities registered in Kansas are assessed and concerns regarding the welfare of animals are addressed promptly. When Department of Agriculture Inspectors close noncompliant breeding and hoarding facilities, by the time action is taken, animals are often victims of severe neglect and abuse. Nonprofit organizations, not the State of Kansas, shoulder the burden of sheltering and the cost of medically and behaviorally rehabilitating these animals. Increasing the frequency of inspections will allow inspectors the opportunity to intervene before animals suffer.

Because nonprofit organizations, not breeders or pet shops, fund the cost of rehabilitating animals rescued in Kansas, I urge you to help these organizations by keeping the cost of foster care licenses and facility licenses low. If we want to establish Kansas as a leader in the care and treatment of pet animals, charitable animal shelters and the volunteers who help them should be supported, not further taxed.

Finally, it is absolutely time for Kansas to join the 19 States that have banned the use of carbon monoxide chambers for domestic animals. The Lawrence Humane Society and our colleagues with the newly formed Pet Animal Coalition of Kansas will be happy to take the lead in providing necessary training and guidance to the remaining four shelters that still utilize gas over the more humane method of euthanasia by-injection. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Dr. Jennifer Stone

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