

## Kansas Federation of Animal Owners

Testimony in opposition to SB 47 – Steve Hitchcock, Government Affairs, KFAO

House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee – March 15, 2017

Members of the Committee:

Senate Committee amendments to SB 47 have done nothing to address the two major concerns that we have with the bill concerning redundant regulation regarding veterinary care and the need to have KDA regulations align with Federal regulations regarding USDA-licensed facilities. The Senate committee amendments have also added new regulations with at least questionable rationales and that raise very real concerns as to due process rights.

Although KDA proposes that it have equal oversight with USDA on veterinary care at USDA-licensed facilities, there is no reciprocal proposal that KDA-only licensees be inspected twice as often by KDA to insure that veterinary care receives equivalent oversight at those facilities.

The amendment carving out large areas of exceptions to the requirement that KDA regulations align with USDA regulations in regard to dual-licensed facilities opens the door for burdensome and conflicting requirements on those businesses. Whether or not those requirements are planned at this time, prudence would dictate that it would be unwise to leave that door open.

The coalition supporting the KDA bill and the Senate amendments has unusual components. Outside groups backing the raising of fees, activist groups backing KDA policy changes and proposing their own additions, and some regulated businesses accepting the fee and policy changes. Our group is resigned to at least some need for the fee schedule changes and has no problem with new sections regarding rescue networks, but urges the rejection of the policy changes, including the Senate amendments.

Kansas Federation of Animal Owners would ask the Committee to pass out an amended SB 47 containing only the fee schedule and rescue network sections. Thank you.