



**Vote YES on HB 2302**

TO: Senate Judicial Committee  
FROM: Nate Meador, Great Plains SPCA  
DATE: March 20, 2017  
RE: HB 2302

In 2016, we served 1,228 families by providing education and assistance with our programs, more than 25,000 pets receive advanced medical care from our Veterinary Care Center, and 15,316 pet meals were delivered to the homebound through our HERO program. In 2016, our foster program had 493 homes providing temporary care, 6,724 pets were adopted, and 1,493 pets were reunited with their families. Our organization employs over 120 individuals in the metro and we have an annual budget of \$6.5 million to serve the community. We are supported locally and appreciate the community for helping us achieve our mission in the metro.

As you vote please consider the financial responsibility our shelters across Kansas are effected with caring for the animals with owners pending court.

Depending on the type of case, the species of animal, and the number of animals seized, the cost of care can add up to tens of thousands of dollars per case. And while many of our shelters are contracted with counties across Kansas, our space and resources are limited.

This section of the animal cruelty statute not only bolsters our ability to seek the cost of care for the animal as the case is pending, it helps legally transfer the animals to us if we cannot find the owner of the animal. The changes to this statute will expand the ability of those caring for animals to seek the cost of care or disposition of the animal while the case is pending

We also support the change to subsection (h) of ensuring the animals do not return to their owner if the owner is convicted of felony or misdemeanor animal abuse under the statute. We support changing this subsection to take the guesswork out and ensure that animals are not returned to their abusers.

I urge you to support these minimal changes to the statute and vote yes on HB 2302.

**Nate Meador | Interim President**

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