



Senate Judiciary Committee
Chairman Wilborn
VIA EMAIL

March 16, 2018

Re: Support of House Bill 2516

Sen. Wilborn and Members of the Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Midwest Alliance for Animals (MAA), a coalition of Kansas animal shelters that provide services to local communities. Together, our organizations care for over 29,146 animals annually and approximately 1.16 million people in Southern, Central, and Northeastern Kansas.

Our members investigate or assist with cases where animals have been left in a vehicle in dangerous weather conditions, treat animals suffering from heat stroke or hypothermia, and house animals once they have been seized by law enforcement. We support HB 2516 as amended because so often good samaritans encounter animals suffering in a hot car and have to wait for Animal Control Officers or law enforcement to arrive to rescue the animal. In understaffed animal control units, response time can mean the difference between life or death for an animal. Kansas needs this law to protect those good samaritans from being sued by the person who recklessly left their pet in distress.

In Salina, Animal Services has received nearly 200 calls about animals left in cars in dangerous conditions in the last two years. In one of those 200 cases, an officer was dispatched to a location where a cat was locked in a pet crate, inside a car, for six hours, when temperatures reached over 90 degrees. Tragically, the cat did not survive. In Ottawa, Prairie Paws Animal Shelter estimates they receive 20 calls per year about animals left in vehicles.

Passing HB 2516 ensures if they are seen, animals are rescued, survive, and get the medical treatment they need without the threat of costly litigation. Eleven other states have similar laws protecting individuals who rescue an animal and we encourage Kansas to do the same.

Sincerely,

Katie Barnett
Animal Welfare Counsel

Mark Eby, President/CEO
Kansas Humane Society, *Wichita*

Melissa Reed, Executive Director
Prairie Paws Animal Shelter, *Ottawa*

Nate Meador, President/CEO
Great Plains SPCA, *Merriam*

Vanessa Cowie, Animal Services Manager
Salina Animal Services, *Salina*

Kate Meghji, Executive Director
Lawrence Humane Society, *Lawrence*