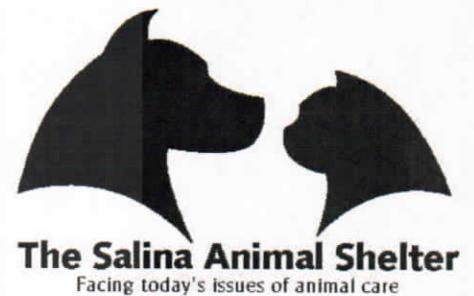


Monday March 13th, 2017



To the House Agriculture Committee,

Re: Support for Senate Bill 47 with Amendments

My name is Vanessa Cowie and I manage the Animal Services Division for the City of Salina, overseen by the Parks & Recreation Department, and am a member of the Pet Animal Coalition of Kansas. The Salina Animal Shelter serves the City of Salina and Saline County by re-homing unwanted pets, and providing Animal Control services. As you are aware; animal shelters belong to the largest group of licensees in Kansas, and we need to build stronger representation on the KPAAB. I am a big supporter of the AFIP, and I believe that SB47 with the added amendments will address some of the short-falls, as well as establishing a more sustainable fee structure. It is time to raise the standard of care for pets in Kansas, and to move towards a more sustainable future in animal welfare.

I am most encouraged by the following amendments:

- **Removing the advance notification aspect of the inspection process.** The intention is to minimize the opportunity for licensees to create the illusion of compliance. It is expected that this may result in a higher number of “no contact” results. The data provided by the AFIP shows already a significant number of “no contacts” even though the inspectors currently provide advance notification. This evidence suggests that some licensees may intentionally avoid contact to avoid violations, rather than spend the time to achieve compliance. Fortunately the amendments also impose a fee to the licensee for a “no contact” result, and so the financial effects can be mitigated.
- **Revocation of license after failing 3 times in 24 months.** Aimed at encouraging a higher level of compliance, and reducing the number of sub-standard facilities in our state. The amendments also impose a fee to the licensee for failing, re-inspecting, and refusing an inspection.
- **Increasing Foster License fees to \$20.** It is evident that foster homes are growing in popularity and the fees should be increased from \$10 to help fund the valuable work of the KDA. Originally the fees were to increase to \$30/license. Often the “bricks & mortar” licensee pays the foster license fees for those that foster for the facility, and an increase to \$30/license would impose a significant financial burden on facilities that rely on a large number of foster homes.

Thank you for the work you do to improve our state,



Vanessa Cowie
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