

**Testimony on SB 269 relating to Dangerous Regulated Animals
To
The Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources**

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SB 269 seeks to make changes to the laws related to dangerous regulated animals. **The Department is neutral on the provisions contained in the bill.** The provisions of the bill would be effective upon publication in the statute book.

The bill deals with the topic of dangerous regulated animals. The bill would add nonhuman primates and wolves, excluding any hybrid thereof, to the list of dangerous regulated animals. The bill also sets up the criteria for possession of nonhuman primates and wolves at a level that requires more scrutiny than other dangerous regulated animals, including an age requirement and background disqualifiers on possession. The bill further allows the local animal control authority to permissively issue a permit to an applicant, and has mandatory requirements for notification of the local animal control authority if the dangerous regulated animal exposes a human to rabies or another zoonotic disease. And finally, the bill adds provisions related to exemptions from the act but strikes permit language related to possession issued by the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism.

The Department would note that adding wolves to the list of dangerous regulated animals would be difficult to enforce without genetic testing of the animal to ensure that a hybrid does not exist, and that the term hybrid is not defined within the bill. The Department would also be required to amend the caging requirement regulations to include the two new classes of animals added to the list of dangerous regulated animals and that process would take some time to research and develop.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to address the Committee on the bill.