



February 13, 2024

House Committee Agriculture and Natural Resources

Written Testimony in Support of HB 2542

Chair Rahjes and Members of the Committee:

My name is Midge Grinstead, I'm the state director for the Humane Society of the United States, the past director for Lawrence Humane Society and a past member of the Governor's Pet Animal Advisory Board. I am writing today in support of HB 2542.

Over the past 33 years there have been minimal changes to the Kansas Pet Animal Act, while pet animal welfare standards have changed significantly in the Animal Welfare Act, American Veterinary Medical Association Standards and Shelter Veterinary Standards. The water definition follows all three of the groups listed above and supports best practices for pet animals.

Currently, all licensees under the Pet Animal Act have a representative on the Governor's Pet Animal Advisory Board. Rescue Networks were added to the Act in the nineties when they became more prevalent. Rescue Networks, unlike animal shelters, are not allowed to take in stray animals and do not have a brick and mortar building. Animal shelters have buildings to house stray and relinquished animals and typically offer their communities additional services such as, spay/neuter subsidies, emergency services and educational opportunities. They are different and the Rescue Network should have their own representative on the Governor's Board as this bill offers.

HB 2542 would require that all licensees follow our state Pet Animal Act requirements whether selling in-state or out-of-state, which is necessary for the health and safety of Kansas pet animals.

Overall, HB 2542 will help the AFI program be more efficient and effective and elevate Kansas pet animals and the businesses and organizations surrounding them.

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