

**Testimony on HB 2029 to
The House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
By Dr. Bill Brown, Animal Health Commissioner
Kansas Department of Agriculture
January 27, 2016**

Good morning, Chairman Schwartz, and members of the committee. I am Dr. Bill Brown, Animal Health Commissioner at the Kansas Department of Agriculture. I am testifying in support of HB2029.

Currently K.S.A. 47-2101(g) states the following: Domesticated deer shall be identified through implantation of microchips, ear tags, ear tattoos, ear notches or any other permanent identification on such deer as to identify such deer as domesticated deer. Any person who receives a permit issued pursuant to subsection (a) shall keep records of such deer as required by rules and regulations adopted pursuant to this section.

While this may be ideal, in real life it is not practical, in situations such as large preserves. These locations tend to be large open or brushy areas. It is not practical, nor in the best interest of the animals to handle them yearly in an attempt to identify them.

Instead of concentrating time and effort on such a requirement, KDA Division of Animal Health believes all would be better served if animals were required to be officially identified upon change of ownership, whether the animal is alive or dead at the time such change occurs. This is a more practical approach for the captive cervid owners, that would assure that animals are identified when they are either added to or removed from the herd, and is aligned with requirements for other livestock species including sheep, goats, and dairy cattle.

In summary, KDA, Division of Animal Health feels that by requiring official identification to be on captive cervids at change of ownership, regardless of if the animal is alive or dead, in combination with the proper Movement of Domesticated Deer Permit or Certificate of Veterinary Inspection is the most practical approach to identification for captive cervids.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. I will stand for questions at the appropriate time.