



Thursday January 20, 2022

Dear Judiciary Committee,

The Northeast Kansas Animal Welfare Foundation based in Topeka serves a 23 county area of northeast Kansas. We work to improve animal welfare, combat animal abuse, and promote responsible pet ownership. In 2021, we announced the creation of *Cruelty Stoppers* alongside our local animal control, police department, sheriff's department, and district attorney. With this special fund, we are able to provide cash rewards to Kansans who report crimes against pet animals when their report leads to an arrest and conviction. We want to send a clear message that animal abuse, cruelty, torture, and abandonment will not be tolerated in northeast Kansas. I encourage you to pass HB 2364 to help spread that message.

I have spent over a decade working in the animal welfare industry as member of a shelter management team and a volunteer in various capacities. I have witnessed firsthand how often animals are confined to a kennel or a room and abandoned. Without the miracle of a Good Samaritan finding and rescuing these pets they would surely face a cruel and agonizing death without proper care. The perpetrators who leave animals in these conditions should face the seriousness of being charged with a felony.

I ask that you support HB 2364 on behalf of the abandoned and abused animals. Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony. If you have any questions you can reach me via email at justin.brokar@me.com or by calling (316) 727-4858.

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Justin Brokar". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'J' and 'B'.

**Justin Brokar, Vice President
Northeast Kansas Animal Welfare Foundation**