



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 489		DATE: 2/11/2025	
COMMITTEE: Agriculture			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: AMANDA KAISER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: tollerlover@icloud.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/8/2025 9:28 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			
I support this bill			



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C."HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2025 10:48 PM

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I am in Support of these Changes in the Bill in reference to "Confiscation of Animals" on its face. I like the idea of holding a Court Hearing within 10-Days, rather than 30-Days and the right and assurances that are included in this Revised Proposed State Statue.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: BARB YORK		PHONE NUMBER: 417-448-9484	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI ANIMAL HUSBANDRY ASSOCIATION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 554			
CITY: ELDON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65026
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2025 12:00 AM	

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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: HEATH CLARKSTON		PHONE NUMBER: 573-520-7490	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 235 EAST HIGH STREET, SUITE 301			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JENNIFER ORTON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: jenniferlorton@icloud.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/8/2025 7:32 AM

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I support this bill. Too often, show dogs are seized or get loose accidentally, and the care they receive is such a shocking deviation from the normal care that these animals receive, and usually focuses solely on removing their reproductive organs. I support shifting the focus away from that practice, and onto providing appropriate care, and helping them return to their owners (provided abuse or neglect have not been proved.)



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: KAREN STRANGE		PHONE NUMBER:	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI FEDERATION OF ANIMAL OWNERS		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 554			
CITY: ELDON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65026
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KATHLEEN C. MONKS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: monksberry@msn.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2025 11:45 PM

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Animals owners have been unjustly persecuted by animal rights organizations for years. Animals have been confiscated under false pretenses. Animals have been euthanized under false pretenses. Owner almost NEVER had the opportunity to get their animals back. I believe an approved third party needs to be considered to take care of the animals that are removed. These animals can be placed in the care of professionals. NOT rescues or shelters.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LARRY ROCK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: lrockeeper@aol.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2025 1:28 PM
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I, support the provisions of this law that add additional protection to the owners and that of the wellbeing of the animal in question. It's my hope the passage of this bill will prevent the transfer of an animal or its euthanasia before completion of a hearing.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: MARK FIEGENBAUM		PHONE NUMBER: 573-690-8580	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI FARM BUREAU		TITLE: ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF STATE AND LOCAL AFFAIRS	
ADDRESS: 701 S. COUNTRY CLUB DR.			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL: mark.fiegenbaum@mofb.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2025 7:23 AM
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Having a quick disposition process is beneficial to all parties and we would like to see that process streamlined. We also support having innocent animal owners not being charged for the care of confiscated animals.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: SHANNON COOPER		PHONE NUMBER: 660-890-1432	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI CATTLEMEN's ASSOCIATION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 208 MADISON STREET			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2025 12:00 AM	

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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: TONY DUGGER		PHONE NUMBER: 417-259-1915	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI PET BREEDERS ASSOCIATION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 730 W. MAIN ST.			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2025 12:00 AM	

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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: BOB BAKER		PHONE NUMBER: 314-361-3944	
REPRESENTING:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: P O BOX 4309			
CITY: ST LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63123
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: CODY ATKINSON		PHONE NUMBER: 816-462-3613	
REPRESENTING: HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 1255 NW 23RD STREET, SUITE 450			
CITY: WASHINGTON		STATE: DC	ZIP: 20037
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: KEVIN JAMES MEYERS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-823-2829	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: COLUMBIA/BOONE COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL		TITLE: ANIMAL CONTROL SUPERVISOR	
ADDRESS: 1005 W. WORLEY ST.			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65203
EMAIL: Kevin.Meyers@como.gov	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2025 3:05 PM
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My name is Kevin James Meyers and I am the Supervisor at Columbia/Boone County Animal Control located in Columbia, MO. I apologize for the late response in opposition to HB 489 as it appears testimony over the bill was to take place at 8:00 AM on today's date, February 11th, 2025. I was not made aware of this bill until this morning via email. This bill (in one form or another) is introduced annually to the House. Every year I get an email the night or morning of the bill hearing as it appears those who file it are actively going out of their way to block testimony from Animal Control Officers and Agencies within Missouri. This bill affects these agencies and the care we provide to animals whilst enforcing the Missouri State Statutes pertaining to animal abuse. I do not wish to take up our Missouri House representatives' time but I would like to quickly go through the sections of this proposed Bill to highlight the ways it adversely affects how these laws are enforced. Starting with section (1) which specifies that a warrant issued under the bill must be served in the presence of a law enforcement official; This is already a daily struggle within most Animal Control Agencies. Within Boone County Animal Control falls under the Public Health and Human Services department and when serving a warrant we are required to bring a law enforcement official with us. This takes the time a Sheriff's Deputy or Police Officer could spend on their own case investigations to assist us. They are often unfamiliar with the process and in many cases too overburdened with their own cases to respond immediately to assist with serving the warrant. In cases of extreme abuse, it is imperative that the warrant be served quickly to remove an animal from the situation an irresponsible pet owner has put it in. As Animal Control is enforcing the ordinances and charging the owner with animal abuse it only makes sense they should be considered as law enforcement officials themselves however, that is a battle for another day. Concerning section (2) of HB 489; the Bill would have court ordered disposition hearing held within ten days of confiscation. Ten days is simply not enough time, to prepare a case proving an animal owner was negligent. Take for instance a case involving emaciated dogs or those believed to have starved to death. After a warrant is served and these animals are taken into the care and custody of Animal Control during the disposition hearing they are evaluated by a licensed veterinarian who would recommend and follow a diet plan for their care. In most cases, the animal does not start gaining weight back immediately. In many instances, the animal first has to build back up a fat reserve before muscle begins to reform and will not start showing weight gain until after the first week on a steady diet. If a deceased animal is found during the investigation following the serving of a warrant we would have a necropsy done by our local diagnostic lab located at the University of Missouri Vet School. Typically they can provide us with a quick response of the general condition the dog was found in and a likely cause of death. However, to prove an animal was emaciated, a sample of the bone marrow taken from the femur of the animal is sent to the State of California for testing. This

often takes at least 15 days to collect results. If the bone marrow content is found to be less than 60% it can be ruled that the animal was feeding off its fat reserves to survive, a.k.a. starving to death. I have had numerous cases in which the bone marrow results were less than 4%, proving that the animal starved to death. Regarding section (3) of HB 489; Allows a third party approved by the court to care for confiscated animals. My greatest concern is that an abuser will have further access to the animal they have abused. They may give the name of a rescue or a veterinarian that they want their animals to stay with. That vet may allow the owner access to the animals they are abusing or they may refuse to provide any records of the care and treatment of the animals to Animal Control prior to the disposition hearing. This would prohibit us from proving abuse happened at the disposition hearing and the animals may be returned to a situation which continues to endanger their health. Regarding section (4) of HB 489; specifies that the owner of a confiscated animal cannot be responsible for the animal's care and keeping prior to the disposition hearing. This is best disputed by example. Say a dog owner injures their animal by breaking its leg out of anger and then refuses to take the dog to a veterinarian. I petition the court for a warrant to remove the animal and charge the owner with animal abuse. I then take the dog to our veterinarian and have radiographs, treatment, and medication provided. The animal heals in my care. The court holds no monetary responsibility to the owner, who broke their own dogs leg. It's outrageous to believe the abuser of an animal isn't responsible for the damage they caused, even the monetary damages. The abuser should be held accountable in every way possible. Regarding Section (6) of HB 489; Specifies that all animals confiscated must receive proper care as determined by state law and regulations, etc. This section is just insulting to the caring professionals that put their time and effort into caring for animals, especially those placed in abysmal conditions due to their neglectful owners and abusers. The thought that so much effort would be put in by Animal Control or other law enforcement agencies to remove abused animals from the situation they have no choice to be put in and then neglect them ourselves is both laughable and highly offensive. This along with section (7) proposes to hold Animal Control accountable for health conditions caused by a negligent pet owner. The unfortunate truth is that some animals are neglected so harshly that the only humane option is humane euthanasia. And although animal care workers do everything in our power to avoid that conclusion, it's one that is sometimes unavoidable. We then have to live with the fact that a fellow human has pushed an innocent creature to that point. And people wonder why burnout and compassion fatigue is so rampant among Animal Care and Control Workers. I have already gone on much too long and I believe everything I have stated in this testimony should provide overwhelming clarity into why HB 489 should be scrapped and thrown into the nearest wastebasket, as it has every year similar bills have been introduced. Our state has come so far in the fair and ethical treatment of animals, and it would be a shame to throw it all away for this bill proposed and sponsored by only one representative, who's intentions should be questioned. I trust our wonderful Missouri State Representatives to make the correct and well informed decision not to pass this bill, and continue to protect the rights of both our wonderful community of pet owners and our silent furry, feathery, and scaly friends who do not have a voice to speak for themselves.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: KIM BROWN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-645-4610	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: APA ADOPTION CENTER		TITLE: VP/COO	
ADDRESS: 1705 S. HANLEY RD.			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63144
EMAIL: kim@apamo.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2025 9:49 AM	
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I am the vice president and chief operations officer at the APA adoption Center in St. Louis. I have worked in animal welfare for 15 years handling all aspects of shelter operations. The APA was also contracted to run the St. Louis County shelter for the last 2 years. We have provided veterinary care and daily care for animals involved in cruelty and neglect cases. I am familiar with RSMo 578.018 and the importance of the confiscation and disposition process. I have seen firsthand what occurs when not utilized. Animals confiscated remain on lengthy legal holds, causing undue fear, anxiety, and stress. It is also costly to taxpayer dollars to have animals housed for several months. Length of stay is an important factor in shelter operations to ensure there is available space for animals in need. While a timely hearing is beneficial, shortening it to 10 days does not provide adequate time. RSMo 578.018 currently provides 30 days for the disposition hearing. Veterinary exams and reports are needed, and some cases are large and involve multiple species. There is also a national veterinary shortage that can impact their availability. The 30 days also provides a reasonable timeframe for witnesses to be summoned and courts to schedule a hearing. This change would cause hardship and deter cases in the future, leaving abused and neglected animals to suffer. RSMo 578.018 currently requires impounded animals be placed in the custody of a veterinarian, the appropriate animal control authority, or an animal shelter. HB 489 proposes animals are housed at an unlicensed facility. Appropriate housing and husbandry is critical to reduce further suffering and prevent disease transmission. Providing appropriate care for abused or neglected animals, and sometimes large numbers of animals, is complex and requires skilled caregivers that understand medical and behavioral needs. In my experience these animals are some of the most vulnerable. This change does not serve Missouri's animals or constituents well. Thank you, Kim Brown



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: SARA SPEASE		PHONE NUMBER: 816-666-2966	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI ANIMAL CONTROL ASSOCIATION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 432			
CITY: EXCELSIOR SPRINGS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64012
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: TROY SCHNEIDER		PHONE NUMBER: 660-620-1077	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI ANIMAL CONTROL ASSOCIATION		TITLE: DIRECTOR-LEGISLATION	
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 432			
CITY: EXCELSIOR SPRINGS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64024
EMAIL: tschneider@cityofsedalia.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2025 5:16 PM	

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It has come to the attention of the Missouri Animal Control Association changes proposed to House Bill 489. The changes to House Bill 489 will directly affect members of the Missouri Animal Control Association. There are concerns about the reduction in time to complete a disposition hearing from thirty to ten days. Shortening the time for a disposition hearing would not allow all evidence to be presented in cases of animal abuse and neglect, potentially allowing abused and neglected animals to be returned to their abusers. The provisions of House Bill 489, allowing a non-licensed facility to house animals during the legal process are also concerning. Sending animals to facilities not regulated by the Missouri Department of Agriculture could put them into continued neglectful and abusive environments. We are often the voice for those with no voice of their own. The Missouri Animal Control Association strongly opposes the changes proposed to House Bill 489.