

I am writing in support of SB638, HCR12, and 580

SB638 - Require research labs to release dogs and cats no longer needed for research to rescues and shelters so they can be adopted into loving homes.

There is a spotlight on animal testing and it is becoming more widely known that many of these trial animals can be treated and adopted out into homes. It seems to me, abhorrent, to cause intentional illness and suffering and then end that life because the testing and use for its life is over to the person/source doing the testing. Many a person out there in the world considers themselves an animal lover. Endless online videos show people putting their own lives at risk to save the life of an animal. Dogs and Cats have been domesticated for so long that we know see them as family, companions, many of us never considering a life without one. So many people taking their dogs (and cats) everywhere they go. The average person spending hundreds of dollars a year and many thousands in a lifetime for their cat or dog. It goes against this nature of our evolved relationship with animals to use companion animals for testing and then dismissing their right to life by ending it when they are healthy, sentient creatures ready for a life of love and comfort. Doesn't it make sense to give them the opportunity if that opportunity exists and people are willing and available to help?

I consider the people doing the testing may be pet guardians themselves. They build a rapport yet have to maintain an emotional detachment just to get through the testing. How devastating to them to endure the constant deaths of animals they work with because the project is over, knowing the animal is able to be made well. What psychological damage does this cause to a person over time?

From police dogs, military dogs, and companion pets in testing, people are growing weary of seeing animals being used in these way and then discarded like trash. We are a nation of dog and cat lovers. It is time to generate laws and regulations that support better treatment of animals that are giving a service to humans, even in a testing laboratory. The resources and people are out there ready to make a difference for these lives. We all need to make it possible for that to happen by framing the groundwork to connect labs and shelters via specific parameters. The call will be heard, people will be ready to help.

In other states lab animals are adopted out. The stories I have seen relate to Beagles and the stories of their 'after testing life' are touching and inspiring. To think they can receive love and happiness and comfort is what creating good in the world really means. And it is heartening for the pet guardian to know they have made a positive difference. These animals are resilient and when placed in loving homes that provide comfort, love, and a healthy play environment completely turn around. To destroy life is exactly that, it is destruction of a life and it is unnecessary in these situations and an inhuman way to use a sentient being.

Please support SB638. Attached HSUS data.

HCR12- Recognize the rescued shelter pet (cats and dogs) as Oregon's State Pet

As SB638 and HB2804 are up for review, it should follow that Oregon is making a stand for the adoptable animal and provides full support in pointing Oregonians to look towards a local shelter to save a life. In this way it also discourages people from store breeders and other disreputable breeders

who, for profit, put animals through a horrendous ordeal so they can make a buck. Oregon would be following suit to other successful states in encouraging adoption from local shelters like California, Colorado, Georgia and Tennessee.

## 580 - Ban Sodium Cyanide Bombs

I cannot say it any better than the HSUS so I have included their information below on this particular issue. The information speaks for itself. I am so very strongly in favor of this ban. I have been an animal advocate for many decades and the amount of stories I have read over the years brings me to tears and a heart full of anger. When you read how a person has watched their pet die in front of them from having come across one of these cyanide bombs, you cannot help but cry for all the pain they have endured watching a loved one suffer and die before their eyes and completely helpless to stop it and save them. Not to mention the horrific surprise by the animal to be suddenly dying and fighting for its life not understanding what is happening. It's just cruel.

These bombs are indiscriminate and kill essential wildlife, humans, and companion pets. It is unconscionable to allow a threat like this to continue to be out there.

- \* Oregon values its wildlife
- \* Oregon values it's ecosystems of which our wildlife are a part of
- \* Oregon values the people in our communities, their families, and their companion animals

It does not make sense to allow this to continue. The harm outweighs the benefits and leaves too much else open for risk

**PLEASE BAN CYANIDE BOMBS!**

## Ban Sodium Cyanide Bombs (M-44s) for the Health and Safety of all Oregonians, our Pets, and Wildlife

What is an M-44? An M-44 device (also called a "cyanide bomb") is loaded with a polyethylene capsule that contains approximately one gram of sodium cyanide. The M-44 is baited to lure wildlife. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) considers sodium cyanide a Category 1 toxin, the most lethal on earth. According to the EPA, "Sodium cyanide is highly corrosive to the skin and eyes, and cyanide liquid and possibly vapor, can be absorbed through intact skin. Vapor can be absorbed extremely rapidly through the respiratory tract."

Are M-44s safe or necessary? M-44s are dangerous, indiscriminate, and irresponsible and are like landmines for people, wildlife, and family pets. When the victim tugs on an M-44 cyanide bomb, a mechanical spring propels a plunger into the capsule, breaking it and causing a spray to explode into the mouth of the victim. The cyanide then mixes with saliva or moisture, where it changes into hydrogen cyanide gas, which is readily absorbed by the lungs. Death is rapid, generally within two minutes.

Wildlife Services has mined the Western U.S. with its cyanide devices, and as a result, it has killed protected species including grizzly bears and California condors. In Oregon, they killed a protected wolf\*. Because most livestock losses come from health problems, weather and even theft, littering cyanide bombs across our federal public lands is unnecessary and irresponsible.

Are M-44s found in Oregon? Wildlife Services reports that it killed 172 coyotes and one wolf by M-44s in the 2017 fiscal year. Their data may not reflect a true accounting of deaths because it's likely some bodies may not have been found after poisoning from cyanide.

For example, in 2017, a cyanide bomb nearly killed a 14-year old boy who accidentally triggered an unmarked device placed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services program just yards away from his home on federal public lands. Moreover, in Oregon, two human exposure incidents have been recorded by the EPA, one involving Amanda Wood in 1994 and another in 2002, involving Danielle Clair. Both these women were exposed after trying to help their dogs, who triggered sodium cyanide bombs.

\*Some wolves in Oregon still retain their federal Endangered Species Act protections, depending on their geography. Since Wildlife Services did not admit where the wolf was when they killed it, the public does not know whether the wolf was living in a federally-protected area.

Thank you truly for your time and consideration.

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