

I am writing in support of House Bill 2804.

Every year thousands of cats, dogs and rabbits are put to death in this country's animal shelters. Shelters are overwhelmed by the number of animals turned in and when these animals are not adopted, many shelters feel it necessary to kill them.

Every year thousands of animals, particularly dogs, are repeatedly bred to produce young animals for pet stores to sell. Often times these animals are inbred and, as a result, have genetic abnormalities. These abnormalities may show up at birth and the young animal is killed or they may manifest later in life and the person who adopted the animal finds that they have a beloved pet with painful and debilitating health issues. These problems very seldom have a cure. The pet parent is faced with the choices of high vet bills with little relief for the pet's suffering or having to euthanize a pet, who is a member of the family, in order to put it out of it's pain.

If retail pet stores in Oregon are prohibited from selling cats, dogs and rabbits acquired from sources other than animal shelters or rescue organizations, it will mean far less death and suffering for these animals in our state. Please let Oregon lead the rest of the country on this.

I strongly support and urge the passage of HB 2804.

Deborah Morse