



HUMANE VOTERS | OREGON

Testimony of Humane Voters Oregon on Senate Bill 638
Senate Committee on Judiciary

March 19, 2019

Chair Prozanski and Members of the Committee:

Humane Voters Oregon (previously known as Humane Oregon) is a nonprofit organization that works in Oregon's political process and elections to promote humane treatment of animals. We have board members from several different animal welfare organizations but are not affiliated with any other state or national organization.

Humane Voters Oregon supports Senate Bill 638, which would require a research facility using animals for experiments to make the animals available for adoption, instead of euthanizing them, when the facility stops using the animals for research.

According to your staff measure summary, "there are approximately 8,000 mammals [not to mention other species] used for scientific research in Oregon, including several dozen dogs and cats." While this may be necessary – increasingly less so, we hope – these animals deserve at least the gesture of kindness that SB 638 would provide.

We appreciate the concerns of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife regarding the breadth of the bill, and therefore the proposed -2 amendments that would limit the bill to just dogs and cats. Trout, salmon and elk obviously are not suitable for adoption. However, we wonder if animals other than just dogs and cats (rabbits, for example) are also commonly adopted and should be included in the coverage of the bill.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Brian Posewitz

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Board Member/Administrator