

Honorable members of the Oregon House Committee on Business and Labor
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Committee members:

My name is Kelly Weaver - owner of Atlantis Pets & Supplies in Roseburg Oregon. I strongly oppose HB 2804 which is of paramount interest to me not only because I care deeply for the pet industry but also because if passed my small business will unnecessarily suffer. I will lose income that I can't conceivably recoup, income that helps pay both myself and my employee's salaries.

I have been a retail pet store owner for almost thirteen years and a pet owner all of my life. In life and business I have strong morals and ethics. To that end I have worked very hard to establish a reputable business, one that people trust will only sell healthy, happy, *responsibly sourced* pets.

I understand the concerns regarding the sale of dogs, cats and rabbits, and would seek to assure you that the animals that come into my establishment are NOT purchased from facilities that mistreat or abuse animals. NONE of my dogs, cats or rabbits come from out of state breeders, in fact ALL of my dogs, cats and rabbits come from my local customers/members of my community.

Regarding the sale of puppies. I do not pay cash up front for puppies. All puppies are sold on a consignment basis and must have had all applicable vaccinations/wormings before entering my facility where they are allowed a maximum stay of seven days after which time, if they have not sold, they are returned to the breeder/owner. I rarely consign puppies from the same breeder - the biggest percentage of my puppies come from one time breeders/customers who know that my business does everything in its' power to safeguard and ensure both the immediate and continued well being of the puppy by 1) having potential buyers answer a short questionnaire that helps ascertain their ability to provide for the puppy and 2) warranting the puppy when it is sold.

Regarding the sale of rabbits. Atlantis Pets & Supplies primarily sells dwarf breeds and on rare occasion small breeds. In all cases great care is given to ensure appropriate cages and supplies are either being bought with or provided to the animal when it is sold.

Regarding the sale of cats/kittens. Upon rare occasion (usually only 3-6 times per year), *as a service to its' customers*, Atlantis Pets & Supplies vaccinates and finds homes for (for a very minimal fee) local kittens that are donated/relinquished. On rare occasion Adult cats that are relinquished (usually due to hardship) by local customers are rehomed (once again for a very minimal fee.)

I can safely Argue due to the sheer number (millions) of dog/cat/rabbit owners in the state of Oregon *that prohibiting a small number of Oregon Businesses from selling dogs/cats/rabbits will NOT ensure that only responsibly sourced, healthy animals are bred and sold.* Nor will it stop "mills" from operating. Oregon already has laws that protect the animal and the consumer, laws that will be much, much harder to enforce or police if the majority of sales of dogs/cats/rabbits (obtained from unknown sources/breeders) are forced into rescues/shelters. A brighter future is one that allows Pet Stores to work with legislators, breeders and consumers to not only educate and promote but also provide for the responsible breeding and selling of animals.

HB2804 targets a very, very small percentage of dog/cat/rabbit sales in the state of Oregon. I strongly feel that before a bill like HB2804 is passed more work/time should be invested in protecting all involved - including small businesses in Oregon.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and I am asking you not to support HB2804. Please stand with your hard working, small Oregon businesses.

Sincerely,

Kelly Weaver

Owner: Atlantis Pets & Supplies

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