



15 March 2017

Honorable Members of the Oregon Legislative Assembly,

I am the owner of For Paws, a successful pet store located in Portland. I'm writing on behalf of myself and my staff in support of H. B. 2804, which would stipulate that only puppies and kittens sourced from rescue organizations be sold in Oregon retail pet stores. We have partnered with a local rescue and can attest to not only the long term economic feasibility of working through a humane model that does not involve the sale of animals from small scale, irresponsible backyard breeders, commercial breeding establishments, nor breeder mills.

We believe there is a clear distinction between responsible, registered breeders that properly socialize and care for their animals, and those being sourced from unaccountable backyard breeders and mills. Good, responsible breeders simply do not sell animals out of pet stores because they know this is not good for puppy or kitten welfare, nor for the mothers of these baby animals.

For Paws has chosen not to sell puppies or kittens because I know that ultimately, my customers view their dogs and cats as family, not as commodities sourced from potentially inhumane, unregulated breeders. Because For Paws customers view their animals as part of their family, they come to our store to purchase high quality-food, treats, toys, bedding, and walking gear. For Paws is a hub on our street, we know our community well, and have created a safe, humane atmosphere for our customers to visit with their animals.

We have partnered with a local rescue that does adoption events with us, and that partnership has brought us loyal customers and partnerships that has been not only mutually beneficial, but community building. If you would like to see for yourself what a successful, humane pet store looks like when they do not sell puppies or kittens, please stop by and visit us. You will not be disappointed.

We take great pride in what we have humanely accomplished at For Paws and again would like to stress our support of H. B. 2804. We ask that all of you in the Oregon Legislature support it, too.

Sincerely,

Faye Alhadeff and the team at For Paws
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