

ANIMAL HOUSE PET SHOP

358 WARBER-OMILNE RD SUITE G110

OREGON CITY, OREGON 97045

March 20, 2019

To whom it may concern:

I'm David Miller and with my brother Scott we have been in the retail pet business since October 1982. In 1982 my brother Scott graduated from the U of O, with a BS degree in Business Management. Scott had a desire to recreate an experience from a pet store that we grew up with in Chicago. That pet store had the excitement of viewing, playing with and learning about all varieties of pets. We are not just concerned with the sale of a pet, but the care and wellbeing of the animal. We believe that this business practice has made us what we are today. We ask that you do not support bill HB 2804-5 so that we can continue with the idea that we founded our business on. In the past 37 years we have tried to continue to offer this experience and excitement to our customers. It is hard to explain the enjoyment of watching children and adults alike interact with a pet, be it a fish, bird, small animal, reptile, kitten or puppy.

When we opened our first store in Oregon City, the industry was dominated by the independent pet store owner. Today we find just the opposite. We have seen this industry change greatly over the past 37 years. The industry is dominated by the big box pet stores, grocery, variety and feed stores. Because of this the number of successful independent pet shops continues to fall.

We ask that you do not support measure HB 2804-5, as this would affect us greatly and make it hard to stay in business. We have watched our young employees grow up and succeed in their own careers, by having the opportunity to care for these animals. We have employees that have become veterinarians, nurses, fire fighters, many other walks of life and served our country proudly. We also have employees that worked for us for 15 plus years. These employees bring with them their experience and care for all the animals. Our current 15 employees are dedicated to the care of the animals and are also a great contribution to our success.

The flood of rescue dogs has already had an impact on us. Often we get customers that have adopted rescue dogs only to find that they didn't work out for them and they are looking for a puppy they can grow with. We offer our customers health guarantees, warranties, and above all customer satisfaction and have done so for 37 years. Many of our customers have returned to buy multiple pets from our store.

Our puppies and kittens are not crowded in their kennels and we have a dedicated employee just for our puppies, 7 days a week 365 days a year. The puppies are watered and fed a premium pet food throughout the day and are interacted with multiple times per day.

We value our customers and the community. We have supported our schools, community and local organizations throughout our business years. We also celebrate each year with an anniversary sale and gift give-a-ways showing our customer appreciation.

We urge you today not to vote for HB 2804-5. We are appalled at being accused of supporting puppy mills. Not all puppies come from puppy mills and we pride ourselves in purchasing puppies and kittens from local families in our community and from our returning customers.

In the past 37 years we have had regular visits from the County Animal Control and State Health Department. We have not had a single fine or compliance violation on our record in this time. A small pet business such as ours would not have lasted for almost four decades without complying with the law and providing quality service, product, pets and satisfaction to our customers and community.

Sincerely,

Scott and David Miller, Owners