



## Senate Committee on the Environment & Natural Resources

### Senate Bill 883 (Support)

April 4, 2019

Dear Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Olsen, and Other Committee Members,

The Oregon Veterinary Medical Association supports Senate Bill 883, which is the result of our having a broader conversation with the Oregon Humane Society about how animals are brought into the state, how they are cared for, and how they eventually are adopted. With a lot in between.

- Dogs continue to be imported into our state by various groups, including animal shelters and animal rescue groups. This is a verifiable fact.
- Some of these imported animals have entered Oregon without the required Certificate of Veterinary Inspection – a health certificate. And this concerns us.
- In some instances, veterinarians have alerted us to illnesses and diseases from imported dogs. This includes heartworm disease, other parasites, and canine distemper.

We believe that Senate Bill 883 will move us in a better direction:

1. Better ensure that animals coming into Oregon arrive with a Health Certificate, and, to the best of our knowledge, are healthy. We need to know this and to have the ability to trace back, if necessary, where these animals originate from.
2. Better protect the health of those animals that already are in Oregon. We can do this by seeing that the animals being imported into our state are in better condition and healthier when they arrive or that they get the necessary veterinary care upon arrival.
3. Better protect the public who have an interest and desire to adopt or purchase animals from the humane shelters and rescue groups that are importing these animals. If

unhealthy animals are adopted or sold, that new owner will incur unexpected health care costs – and we want to minimize this.

4. Better protect public health. We have a responsibility to Oregonians to ensure as best that we can that animals entering the state don't have zoonotic illnesses or diseases that can be transmissible to people or are treated and cared for upon their arrival.

We need your help to address these serious concerns, and ask for your support of Senate Bill 883. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Glenn M. Kolb  
Executive Director