



4500 N.E. CORNELL ROAD • HILLSBORO, OREGON 97124 • (503) 648-1643 • FAX (503) 648-6465

April 3, 2019

Dear Mr. Chairman and fellow Senators of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources:

We are writing in regards to the Senate Bill 883 currently being presented relating to animal rescue entities.

We are a private small animal practice of 7 full time veterinarians and veterinarian owner who would like to voice our absolute support for this bill. We have had multiple experiences with so called animal "rescue" organizations that have demonstrated poor communication, offered substandard "medical" practice and advice, presented questionable records and vaccine history, and ultimately caused significant emotional and financial burdens to the adoptive pet owners.

As recent examples:

Patient #1 – 5 year old canine brought from TX as a known heartworm disease positive dog. Heartworm disease requires intensive and expensive treatment. This particular patient had a severe case known as Caval Syndrome in which the worm burden is so severe that a major vessel from the heart becomes clogged. The prognosis for this disease once Caval Syndrome occurs is poor, with a high fatality rate. The client was told by the rescue that this dog could just be on a heartworm preventative and do well. This is medically inaccurate and the result is absolute heartbreak as this pet did ultimately succumb to this disease, 4 months after adoption.

Also, the dog was reported to be neutered but he had both testicles palpable and retained outside of the scrotal sac (bilateral cryptorchidism), so this dog clearly did not have an appropriate physical exam prior to adoption.

Patient #2 – 3 year old canine also brought in as a known heartworm disease positive from TX. Once again, adopters were unaware of seriousness of heartworm disease and were led to believe that treatment was not necessary. Once again, this is medically inaccurate. This patient was successfully treated, however it was to a significant financial cost to the adopters (estimated \$1500).

We will add that transport of heartworm disease into Oregon is poor practice as this then subjects our Oregonian dogs to the spread of heartworm disease.

Patient#3 – 1.6 year old female canine sold by a northwest "rescue" organization. The paperwork for this patient was very questionable. The rabies vaccine certificate patient information blocked out on the papers. There were no appropriate identifying markers on certificates that indicated it was this particular dog that received the vaccines. The dog was not microchipped and without the proper record keeping, there is no way of knowing the proper medical information. The dog was marked as spayed, but there are no medical records to verify this. Attempts to contact the organization to clear up the confusion was unsuccessful.



Frontier

VETERINARY HOSPITAL, P.C.

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This owner ended up spending significant time on trying to verify information, and finances to update true vaccine status. Owner ultimately re-homed dog to a family member

Patient #4 – 18 week puppy, once again with questionable/incomplete paperwork from same rescue as patient #3. Owner was forced to return puppy to rescue for her spay surgery, without any further information provided. The communications, or rather the lack of, created significant emotional distress for this owner.

These are but a few examples of “rescue” organization providing shoddy/inappropriate information and care. Unfortunately, the new owners pay the ultimate price emotionally and financially. The public does not know that there are no consistent regulations of these “rescue” organizations, and trust that their new adoptee pet is healthy and that their medical records are correct. We have strong suspicion that for the rescue for Patients 3 and 4, these records are incorrect at best, and forged at worst. Presenting pets with disease and indicating that the disease is not concerning is also irresponsible and incorrect as for Patients 1 and 2. There is also concern for contagious disease spread if rescue organizations are unable and/or unwilling to seek appropriate veterinary physical exams and assessment prior to travel to and eventual adoption in Oregon.

We would like to confirm our support for Senate Bill 833.

Presented by:

Claire Peterson, DVM
Associate Veterinarian



Co-signers:

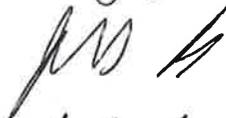
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