



# HUMANE VOTERS | OREGON

Testimony of Humane Voters Oregon on Senate Bill 638-A  
House Committee on Judiciary

May 1, 2019

Chair Williamson and Members of the Committee:

Humane Voters Oregon (previously known as Humane Oregon) is a nonprofit organization that works in Oregon's political process and elections to promote humane treatment of animals. We have board members from several different animal welfare organizations but are not affiliated with any other state or national organization.

**Humane Voters Oregon supports Senate Bill 638-A**, which would require a research facility using dogs and cats for experiments to make the animals available for adoption instead of euthanizing them when the facility stops using them for research. The bill also would require record keeping and reporting on the number of dogs and cats owned, used and offered for adoption by research facilities.

According to the committee's preliminary staff measure summary, "there are approximately 8,000 mammals [not to mention other species] used for scientific research in Oregon, including several dozen dogs and cats." While some of this may be necessary – increasingly less so, we hope – these animals deserve at least the gesture of kindness that SB 638-A would provide to dogs and cats. We also appreciate the record-keeping requirements of SB 638-A, which will help inform future policy decisions.

We appreciate concerns about the breadth of the original bill, which would have required research animals in addition to dogs and cats to be made available for adoption if possible. Still, we hope that in the future the kindness extended by this bill to dogs and cats also will be extended to other animals. Some animals used in research obviously are not suitable for adoption (trout, salmon and elk, as pointed out by ODFW, and exotic animals that cannot be privately owned in Oregon, for example). However, other animals commonly used in research probably are suitable for adoption (guinea pigs, hamsters and rabbits, for example).

Thank you for considering our comments.

*Brian Posewitz*

Brian Posewitz  
Board Member/Administrator