

I am writing to urge your support for HB 2645, which will make the same exemption that applies to horse arenas in agriculture buildings, apply to dog training as well. Dog sports and equine activities can and do coexist in the same buildings and in the same capacities in agricultural buildings. Willamette Agility Group (WAG) is a club that specializes in dog agility and we use many agricultural buildings for training and competitions. For those buildings to be subject to a requirement to upgrade to commercial building code would be cost prohibitive for the property owners. Being subject to comply with commercial building codes would cost so much money that the property owners would have to stop using the buildings for dog training. It is hard enough now to find places we can train; this would end our ability to train indoors. Canine agility and other dog sports are a great activity for handlers and their canine pals. This bill would eliminate the concern for many property owners and would make it easier for dog sports to occur. We sincerely urge you to vote Yes in support of this bill.

Sincerely,
Leslie Ems-Walker
President, WAG