



WASHINGTON COUNTY OREGON

February 11, 2021

To: The House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

Re: Support for HB 2733

Randy Covey, Manager of Washington County Animal Services

Washington County Animal Services supports HB 2733.

Dear Chair Witt and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2733.

This bill will help ensure that dog owners are able to easily register their pets as required and will help identify dogs that are not currently vaccinated for rabies.

This bill does NOT de-couple rabies vaccine requirements from dog licenses, in fact it strengthens the ability to enforce both. This bill does NOT have any bearing on the importation of dogs into the State of Oregon, those pets are required to be vaccinated for rabies upon entry to the State by OAR 603.011.0370 under authorities conveyed by ORS 596.

A careful reading of the proposed amendments clearly support these assertions.

This is a simple and straight-forward bil that if passed will benefit the public health and safety efforts of Animal Services Agencies across the State that are charged with the responsibility to enforce the very important dog license and rabies vaccination requirements.

The current requirement, that dog owners provide proof of current rabies vaccination before being issued a dog license simply results in substantially fewer dogs being registered at all, barring any attempts to ensure compliance with the vaccination requirements and elevating concerns related to public health and safety when dogs are not vaccinated. In Washington County and across the State of Oregon, dog licenses provide a record that coincides with and documents a dog's rabies vaccination status. This bill will update antiquated language in the Oregon Statute and allow for more modern and efficient dog license and rabies vaccination verification. This bill won't mandate a change of practice in those Counties that like the current system. However, this bill will allow jurisdictions like Washington County to implement systems that provide better and more efficient practices to ensure compliance with the rabies vaccination laws for our canine pets and their owners.

Washington County Animal Services very much supports this bill and we believe passing it will make the registration of dogs and verification of rabies vaccinations more efficient and convenient for our residents.

Please vote to pass House Bill 2733 out of Committee.

Respectfully,

Randall B. Covey, Manager

Washington County Animal Services

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