

## HCR 8 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Rules

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**Meeting Dates:** 1/19

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Designates rescued shelter dogs and cats as official state pet.

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

#### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Every year Oregon animal shelters take in tens of thousands of homeless dogs and cats. An army of dedicated shelter staff, volunteers, animal behaviorists and veterinarians work hard to ready these dogs and cats for a second chance at finding their permanent home.

Shelter dogs and cats, like Oregonians, are renowned for their resilience, endurance and ability to overcome adversity, and, like many Oregonians, have come through unimaginable hardship but look to the future with hope and strength. Like Oregonians, shelter dogs and cats are optimists, knowing that a bright future waits ahead.

Like Oregonians, shelter dogs and cats are eager to leave their indoor confines and join their friends in the freedom, beauty, and adventure of Oregon's great outdoors. Oregon is the land of the second chance, something every shelter dog or cat deserves, and they remind us that second chances are worth it.

Oregonians open their hearts and adopt thousands of rescued shelter dogs and cats every year and know that adopting a shelter dog or cat rescues two lives at once. Oregonians see a reflection of themselves in the diversity of shelter dogs and cats, which are of every shape and size and from every background and embody all breeds. As Oregon's state pet they would represent the choice of all dog and cat lovers in this state.

House Concurrent Resolution 8 acknowledges Oregon's connection to shelter dogs and cats and designates rescued shelter dogs and cats as the official pet of the State of Oregon.