Haya Jaylani Hasssouneh Quatama Elementary School 6095 NE Campus Way Hillsboro, Oregon 97124

January 20, 2023

Senator Janeen Sollman Oregon State Legislature 900 Court Street NE Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator, I am a sixth-grade student who thinks pet owners should look after their pets if they are hurt and have sympathy, not indifference.

First of all, animals should not have horrific and miserable lives. Animals also should not be put down unless they are harmed or have a terrible disease that makes them feel all the pain or is harmful to others. Why do I say these animals should not be living inhumane life? If the animal owners mistreated the animal, they would suffer in pain and have to be put down from the pain.

Animals should have the right to have a forever happy home. Pet owners should manage animals with care. In addition, animals should not be kept in zoos and be an income resource for others. Yes, it is entertaining to see them but it's not fair to them. Animals need to live freely and run in the wild like they are supposed to.

Lastly, Animals need to be well to trust their new owners. When humans take advantage of animals they will learn to be aggressive and become aggressive because they don't see humans as good people and trustworthy people. In conclusion, Animals should not be put in shelters unless they are in danger or going to take one last breath before

death. They also should not be put in cages or in zoos, they need to live in their own habitat.

Sincerely, Haya H

Coey Leahlyn Barcroft Quatama Elementary School 6095 NE Campus Way Hillsboro, Oregon 97124

January 19 2023

Senator Janeen Sollman Oregon State Legislature 900 Court Street NE Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Sollman,

I'm a sixth grade student at Quatama Elementary School. It's come to my attention that you are trying to accomplish a goal of giving Oregon a state pet. Your idea of cats and dogs from shelters is a great idea, I think that they are treated very poorly and that it's not fair to them that they have to be put down.

In my opinion this is a great idea, I think it'll help cats and dogs from shelters get adopted, find better homes, and not have to suffer in there waiting their entire life waiting for a home, or even not waiting. Just having to be put down isn't fair. At the same time I get it because they are too overpopulated. Otherwise I think it's a nice idea.

I have seen many cats and dogs in shelters and it's very sad how they are treated. So i think that this is an awesome idea, it might be a little hard at some points though, because of everything you have to keep track of everything that's going on in those shelters. Otherwise I think it's a great idea that you want to do this, and help out those dogs and cats stuck in shelters. I hope if you are able to do this that it will help them out and they can get adopted by great people and start finding good, and new homes.

I hope giving some of my feedback to this was helpful, and that you can accomplish your goal of giving us a state pet! Now I personally think this is a great idea, and I hope everyone else does.

Sincerely, Coey B

Kaden Bartlett Quatama Elementary School 6095 NE Campus Way Hillsboro, Oregon 97124

Jan 18, 2023

Senator Janeen Sollman Oregon State Legislature 900 Court Street NE Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Janeen Sollman

Animals deserve to have a forever home And cats and dogs have emotions and can feel the way humans do and Some dogs and cats have to live alone because they Owner's Leave them and Dogs and cats need to be treated well so they can trust their new owner's and Dog's and cats should have a second chance to go home with a kind family so they don't get put down and if you don't feed dogs and cats They might die and You might not have a dog and cat to go home too.

Thank you very much .kaden Bartlett

6th grade student Adele Baumgartel Quatama Elementary School 6095 NE Campus Way Hillsboro, Oregon 97124

January 17th 2023

Senator Janeen Sollman Oregon State Legislature 900 Court Street NE Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Oregon State Senator Janeen Sollman,

I am a 6th-grade student attending Quatama Elementary. I am writing this letter about why I think shelter cats and dogs should be our state animal. I want to help you decide, and to get people to vote.

Cats and dogs suffer everyday from depression, fleas, hunger, and thirst. If these animals represent our state. If these animals represent our state, we can make a change. Show people that these animals are worth it. We want to show the public how much we care. Not only does adopting an animal benefit the animal, but it also benefits you. Having a special friend, someone furry to snuggle with, can make people a lot happier.

When I'm in a car, or on a walk, I'll see signs for lost animals. I also see signs that are for a shelter, that includes a phone number! This suggests that there are shelters, trying to give people a second chance. Someone put out those signs because we care. This shows me how much people want to help animals for a beter future.

A reason we should should take action is so animals find a better home, we find a pet. Oregon deserves to be represented in that way. We deserve to be represented that way. Animals need proper care, and we need them. Shelter cats and dogs deserve to be represented too.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter, and I hope you take it into consideration!

Sincerely,

adele Baumgardel

Adele Baumgartel

Lola E. Bernhardt Quatama Elementary School 6095 NE Campus Way Hillsboro, Oregon 97124

January 18, 2023

Senator Janeen Sollman Oregon State Legislature 900 Court Street NE Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Sollman:

I write to you today because I would like to bring the subject of a state pet to your attention. This is coming from a sixth-grade student at Quatama Elementary. The official state pet would just be the shelter dogs and cats. I believe that the state pet will not interfere with the state animal (if you were concerned with that matter.)

My stance on the argument is that the state pet would be very beneficial for the community and help with many different issues around the state. A huge reason for the state pet is to help the children who can't have a pet still feel a part of something including the animals. Many studies show that people are happier with a dog or cat. The study, *Health and Mood-Boosting Benefits of pets*, states, "Pets, especially dogs and cats can reduce stress, anxiety, and depression, ease loneliness, encourage exercise and playfulness, and even improve your cardiovascular health. Caring for an animal can help children grow up more secure and active. Pets also provide valuable companionship for older adults." Not to mention the countless other studies proving people are happier with pets. This would also bring a well, needed and deserved spotlight on shelter pets and move families towards adopting. This would be a beneficial move for all parties and bring some new attention to shelters to the public eye.

In my experience, shelter dogs are the nicest animals. When I was eight years old my family brought home a dog named Buster. He was a rescue from a local shelter and he has been near to our hearts ever since. Like all other rescues, Buster deserves a loving home. I hope you will consider the state pet and maybe adopt an adorable rescue of your own.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue, and I really appreciate your time.

All the best,

Lola E. Bernhardt

lan Chan Quatama Elementary School 6095 NE Campus Way Hillsboro, Oregon 97124

1/17/23

Senator Janeen Sollman Oregon State Legislature 900 Court Street NE Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Sollman,

My name is lan Chan and I will support you with all my might to nominate shelter dogs and cats as our state animals.

Your idea of nominating shelter dogs and cats as our state animals is excellent! Here's why: Shelter cats and dogs are a major part of everybody's life whether they have one or not. That's what I believe, anyway.

Two of my cats are shelter cats. Those cats were a very big help during covid. They also helped me go through my darkest times. I always look forward to petting them when I get home. One is a senior at 8 years old and counting. He rarely appears but when he does, it's a real delight to everyone in the family. My younger one, at 2 years old appears 90% of the day and is a siamese that is very mischievous.

I think that if we put those shelter dogs and cats as our state pets, it would be an improvement to everyone's lives.

Thank you for reading my letter.

Sincerely, Ian Chan

1/18/2023

From Daniel Higgins Quatama Elementary School 6095 NE Campus Way Hillsboro, Oregon 97124

To Senator Janeen Sollman Oregon State Legislature 900 Court Street NE Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Sollman,

My name is Daniel, and I am a sixth grader. I think your bill that we read about homeless cats and dogs is a really good idea. Homelessness is not something that people like, says the ex-stepson of an ex-homeless man who just recently passed. Anyway, pets, especially homeless pets, need to have a good home, with good owners, because if they don't have good owners, they would have to go out into the wild, into danger. Plus, if the pets do become lost in the wild, they also become wild. And that's not good for ANYONE. Wild pets are not friendly. That's why I want all pets to be treated with care and love. And if they do go out into the wild, they would get injured, mortally wounded, even killed. That's why every pet animal should be safe in a family home, while all the wild animals should be on their own, living free, and in the wild. Because the pet animals were raised by people, they don't have the survival skills that wild animals have, so they could die really easily. And that's why every pet needs to be at a good home, with really kind and caring owners. Because they deserve to be loved and cared for at a home that suits them till the end Respectfully from:

Daniel Higgins

Daniel Higgins

Senator Janeen Sollman Oregon State Legislature 900 Court Street NE Salem, Oregon 97301

Violet, Jellesed Quatama Elementary School 6095 NE Campus Way Hillsboro, Oregon 97124

Dear Ms.sollman

My name is Violet and I think that we should support having sheltered cats and dogs as our state pet. We need to support shelters and the animals in them because Oregon is all about second chances right? These cats and dogs should deserve better homes and I mean all animals should but we need to help this matter one step at a time. In this case the first step is making shelter cats and dogs our state pet to spread awareness.

Animals deserve a forever home just like any human. Dogs and cats feel the same hunger, hurt and sadness as much as any human. So if we would not want to be abused or starved why should they? When an animal has been abused it's hard to regain their trust and that's why we need to put money towards these animals.

We can't let this continue to happen, animals are very helpful mentally and physically so for us to be healthy they need to be too. We can't just put them down if someone doesn't want them. I mean we don't kill kids at an orphanage if someone doesnt get them so why is it different. I don't know what you believe in but we are mammals so we are like them meaning we need to treat them as somewhat equals and completely get rid of putting animals down and puppy mills and other things.

That is why I think we need to start with having shelter cats and dogs as our state pet to spread awareness and thank those who have volunteered to help these animals and also this will be telling people that we will not let you abuse your animal.

Thank you Ms.Sollman for reading my letter and I hope that this letter will have a good effect on the polls.

Sincerely, Violet Jelleded

Josh Minkiewicz Quatama Elementary School 6095 NE Campus Way Hillsboro, Oregon 97124

January 18, 2023

Senator Janeen Sollman Oregon State Legislature 900 Court Street NE Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Sollman:

I am a sixth grade student at Quatama Elementary School, and I think that shelter cats and dogs should be the official pet of the State of Oregon. I think that shelter cats and dogs should be the official pet of the State of Oregon because they can have the same feelings and emotions that humans have. I also think this because it shows that shelter cats and dogs should have a second chance to find a kind and loving owner.

If shelter cats and dogs became the official pet of the State of Oregon, I think that it could encourage people who want a pet, to get one from an animal shelter, because animals should deserve to have a forever home. They deserve a forever home because they probably haven't had the best life, so they should get another chance.

Also, shelter dogs and cats can make people happy. They can make people happy because the pet owners can connect and relate to their shelter pet because they have probably gone through a lot in their lives. Another reason that it can make their owners happy is that they can become proud and happy that they got to help, and maybe even save a shelter animal's life, because if they stay in a shelter for too long, they might put them down.

Overall, I agree and support that shelter cats and dogs should be the official pet of the State of Oregon because it can help and encourage people to get shelter animals for their pet.

Thank you, Senator Sollman, for taking the time to read my letter and hope it will help in the decision making of what the State of Oregon's official pet will be!

Sincerely,

Josh Minkiewicz

Castle.M Quatama Elementary School 6095 NE Campus Way Hillsboro, Oregon 97124 01/17/2023

Senator Janeen Sollman Oregon State Legislature 900 Court Street NE Salem, Oregon 97301

I think that animal shelters should get their whole life even if the animal is in the shelter for its whole life instead of getting put down. Mabe huw works at a shelter cud git the dog cat bird reptile or fish for free and take the animal to work.

It is just a suggestion Castle out.

Joclynn Reece Quatama Elementary School 6095 NE Campus Way Hillsboro, Oregon 97124

January 18, 2023

Senator Janeen Sollman Oregon State Legislature 900 Court Street NE Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Sollman,

I'm a sixth-grade student. I think it would be a great idea to make sheltered cats and dogs the state's pets. We should make shelter cats and dogs our state pets because they need to know they are safe with us and should not be scared of us.

If we were allowed to have state pets, Sheltered cats and dogs would be a great idea. Also if we don't make sheltered cats and dogs they will get put down and, sadly, they do that I hate that people in shelters do that, but I know they have to do that.

So this is why I think that we should have sheltered cats and dogs as our state pets.

Sincerely, Joclynn

Emma Rounseville Quatama Elementary School 6095 NE Campus Way Hillsboro, Oregon 97124

1/17/23

Senator Janeen Sollman Oregon State Legislature 900 Court Street NE Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Sollman,

I am a sixth grader at Quatama Elementary School writing this letter in support of the bill you are proposing to have shelter dogs and cats be the official pet of Oregon.

I think it is important that shelter animals are represented because they are some of the most grateful and happy dogs once they trust you and you are giving them a second chance at life. They deserve stability and someone to rely on especially if they have been mistreated or abused.

My family has been looking for a shelter dog for a while, and we noticed most of the dogs were large like German shepherds, pit bulls, and golden retrievers, or they were smaller high energy dogs like chihuahuas, poodle mixes, or other terrier breeds. This either meant the person/people did not have enough space for the dog or it was to big and maybe it was loud and/or had a lot of energy and required more frequent entertainment or play time than they could provide.

Hopefully this will encourage people to do more research before getting an animal so they can properly take care of it and help it live its best life because a lot of the cats and dogs end up getting euthanized when they are nobody can care for them well enough.

Thank you for reading my letter,

Regards,

Emma Rounseville

Emma Rounseville

Elijah Mariano Sayco Qautama Elementary School 6095 NE Campus Way Hillsboro, Oregon 97124

Jan 17, 2023

Senator Janeen Sollman Oregon State Legislature 900 Court Street NE Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Janeen Sollman:

I am a sixth-grade student, and I want to tell you why I agree and support your bill. I would never want to see a cat or a dog be homeless and alone for their whole life, so I think giving them a second chance to find a way to their forever home would be suitable for the cat/dog and the people. Also, cats and dogs are so lovely and don't deserve any horrible treatment that might come to them. That's why I think they should have a second chance at finding a great home and owner.

I think this is a good bill because it helps so many cats and dogs in our state to be free and treated right. In some cases, cats and dogs are tortured and sold so humans can get some money. That is not how we should be treating these nice animals and I am asking you to take part in this and give animals a greater life. In the future, I want to see more happy smiles on dogs and cats than lonely, sad, and helpless cats and dogs. That is why I want this bill to go through.

People might not believe me because I've actually never had a dog. But that should be a better reason to support me because I know how hard dogs and cats go through and I've never had one. Also, my two sisters really want a cat or dog. So I would love for this bill to go through and give dogs and cats a second chance.

I think the whole world worries about lonely and homeless cats and dogs. So if we can give these animals shelter and a home, a bunch of us in Oregon will feel happy inside. People like to treat dogs and cats in the wrong way, like in puppy mills, torturing, and letting them starve, so we should earn their trust back and help them out any way we can.

I hope in the future that we take care of these two very important animals in the state of Oregon.

Thank you Senator Janeen Sollman for reading this letter. I support you very much and hope this succeeds. Hopefully, you consider my suggestions too!

Sincerely, Elijah Mariano Sayco

January 20th, 2023

Alice Alfonso Quatama Elementary School 6095 NE Campus Way Hillsboro, Oregon 97124

Senator Janeen Sollman Oregon State Legislature 900 Court Street NE Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Sollman,

I am a sixth grader at Quatama Elementary School. I think the bill to have shelter cats and dogs as our state pet should be passed because these animals deserve a second chance.

These cats and dogs deserve a forever home to live the rest of their lives. They wouldn't be the only ones experiencing joy and happiness from this change, as their owners might experience new things as well. They could help their owners with their problems, as well as bring joy and happiness to them. However, they will never be fully cured of their pain and sadness, but we can help them by treating them right and giving them the attention they need. These animals deserve better, and we humans have a chance to bring happiness into their lives once more.

Most cats and dogs in shelters come from rough backgrounds, such as being left in a box on the side of the road, being abused, and more. They don't deserve any of this. Many cats and dogs have experienced situations that people don't even want to imagine. Most cats and dogs go through a lot before being put into a shelter. Some lose their babies due to abuse and violence from previous owners. Most go through depression or become aggressive due to losing trust in humans, which is why some sheltered animals will growl or hiss at you. Some animals are left outside in the cold without food, water, or shelter, while some are starved, chained up, beaten, yelled at, and more.

Despite all of this, some still have to live out the rest of their lives in a shelter. Sometimes it's due to their appearance, a sickness, or age. They don't deserve this kind of treatment. They deserve to live the rest of their lives with a new family that treats them right. However, just that won't cure the amount of trauma those animals went through, as I said previously. Most are afraid of being left again, or things related to their traumatic experiences.

Therefore, I feel that having shelter cats and dogs as our official state pet would be very helpful to the animals. This change could give them better lives.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I hope this will help the bill get passed.

Sincerely, Alice Alfonso Kaden Bartlett Quatama Elementary School 6095 NE Campus Way Hillsboro, Oregon 97124

Jan 18, 2023

Senator Janeen Sollman Oregon State Legislature 900 Court Street NE Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Janeen Sollman

Animals deserve to have a forever home And cats and dogs have emotions and can feel the way humans do and Some dogs and cats have to live alone because they Owner's Leave them and Dogs and cats need to be treated well so they can trust their new owner's and Dog's and cats should have a second chance to go home with a kind family so they don't get put down and if you don't feed dogs and cats They might die and You might not have a dog and cat to go home too.

Thank you very much kaden Bartlett

Zara Bisson Quatama Elementary School 6095 Campus Way Hillsboro, Oregon 97124

January 17, 2023

Senator Janeen Sollman Oregon State Legislature 900 Court Street NE Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Sollman,

I am a sixth grade student at Quatama Elementary, and I think that rescue cats and dogs should be our state pet. They are wonderful pets, and they are strong and resilient. They all deserve homes, and are great companions. I think that they would make a good state pet, because they represent strength and courage, and they have great bonds with each other and their caretakers.

All rescue cats and dogs deserve a forever home, and more often than not, they get put down when they aren't wanted. They need to be able to go to a new home and not be scared of being abused or abandoned. They need good caretakers, and sometimes they have been abused in their past homes. Cats and dogs feel emotions too. They should be able to go to a nice home and get taken care of and to feel safe, and create bonds with their family. They should be able to trust the people they're going home with.

If we make them our state pet, rescue cats and dogs could be able to go to sleep at night in a nice warm bed with family around them rather than in a shelter all alone. I really think that they should be our state pet, because then they might be wanted as pets more, and then they could get adopted.

I support the bill to make rescue cats and dogs our state pet, because they deserve a nice home and should have a good life, one that's not spent in shelters.

Sincerely, Zara Bisson

Jayden Marin J Quatama Elementary School 6095 NE Way Hillsboro, Oregon 97124

January 17, 2023.

Senator Janeen Sollman Oregon State Legislature 900 Court Street NE Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear S. Sollman

I am a 6th-grade student at Quatama elementary. Dogs and cats should have a second chance or a forever home, seeing cats and dogs on the street with no food and no water is just sad. This bill will help humans and animals, humans get a pet, and the animals get a home.

If this bill was signed it would be known far and wide that our state cares about the shelter animals and the cats and dogs will know we do too! I also support this bill because I have two shelter cats both had a sad childhood, and they both lost their mothers at a young age. My oldest cat has not seen any of his biological siblings but the first time he saw his sister he lashed out so hopefully, this bill helps the animals who have been adopted but haven't seen their families because I don't want animals to see their brothers or sisters and get mad. Inara Kissick Quatama Elementary School 6095 NE Campus Way Hillsboro, Oregon 97124

Jan 17, 2023

Senator Janeen Sollman Oregon State Legislature 900 Court Street NE Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Sen. Sollman

I strongly believe that shelter pets should be allowed a second chance. If humans can get a second chance, so should pets. I support making shelter pets the state pet. Oregon doesn't have a state pet, and I think it needs one.

Sincerely

Inara Kissick

Isabella Stetson

Quatama Elementary school 6095 NE campus way Hillsboro, Oregon 97124

Senator Janeen Sollman

Oregon State legislature 900 court street NE Salem Oregon 97301

Dear Janeen Sollman,

I am a sixth-grade student. Cats and dogs should get homes where they will be loved and appreciated by their owners.

If cats and dogs were adopted more dogs and cats would be happy and less sad and depressed and get home where they can be happy and have a loving family.

If more animals like cats and dogs were adopted our economy could get better. And dogs and cats don't have to be in puppy mills and shelters.

I think that this is an important issue and puppies and cats should be loved more because we don't want dogs and cats to be put down, locked up, abused, and more.

Thank you, Mrs.Sollman, for reading my letter, I hope you will consider my suggestion, And I hope you are going to have a good rest of your day!

Sincerely, Isabella stetson

Quatama Elementary School 6095 NE Campus Way Hillsboro, Oregon 97124

1/17/23

Senator Janeen Sollman Oregon State Legislature` 900 Court Street NE Salem, Oregon 97301

Cats & Dogs that are abused should have a new chance in a home with a nice and loving family. think about it if the shelter is full and they put a dog or cat down. It does not let the dog or cat live their full life. They deserve to have a second chance in a new forever home. What if a dog is going to get put down? What if dogs or cats have siblings? What will happen to the siblings' behavior? The siblings could become anti-social to humans and bite and scratch so they could be hard to adopt or train. And there is a choice like if you are an active person you could get a dog and if you are a more mellow person you could get a cat to chill with you.

There are so many breeds of cats and dogs so you can pick what type of breed of dog or cat that you like the best depending on if you want a very fluffy cat or dog or a short haired cat or dog. What if a kitten has to get put down when the cat is still very young it will barely live its life or have a chance to have a good family and a forever home and it is the same for dogs. It is most likely the a dog or cat in a shelter is rather abused or born in the shelter.

sinserly , Wyatt Stetson Sergio Tapia Moreno Quatama Elementary School 6095 NE Campus Way Hillsboro, Oregon 97124

January 18, 2023

Senator Janeen Sollman Oregon State Legislature 900 Court Street NE Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Sollman:

I am a sixth grade student at Quatama Elementary School and I think that shelter cats and dogs should be the official pet of the state of Oregon. ALL animals deserve to have a forever home, including shelter cats and dogs.

Cats and dogs have emotions and feelings just as humans do. So why treat them otherwise? I think that there is no reason why cats and dogs should not be the official pets of the state known as Oregon. If an animal doesn't have a good background it often feels good to earn their trust, For example when an animal has come from an abusive home it's hard to earn their trust and if you do you feel good about it, at least I know I would.

Personally, I have never had my own experience with shelter cats and dogs, but by now we should all know that any pet in general has to get to know their owner before trusting them. Just like humans do when adjusting to a new friend, sibling, and/or parent.Being a shelter pet and adjusting to a new human is just like when you're adopted and have to adjust to your new parents.

In conclusion this is why I think shelter cats and dogs should stay as the official pet of the state of Oregon. I hope you take my letter into consideration.

Thank you, Senator Sollman, for reading my letter. I hope you take my opinion into mind

Sincerely, Sergio Tapia Moreno

Kellan

Quatama Elementary School 6905 NE Campus Way, Hillsboro OR 97124

January 17, 2023

Senator Janeen Sollman Oregon State Legislature 900 Court Street NE Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Sollman,

I believe that all shelter pets deserve to have a forever home and be treated in a good way because they have emotions and feel almost the same way as humans. Puppies should NOT be put in puppy mills because they don't deserve to be abused and it's not safe. I know someone who has a dog that was treated harshly by it's other owners, so he ran out into a road because he wanted to get away, and almost got hit. Then he ended up at my neighbor's house and has a good life now. There should be more second chances like that for those animals so they don't get put down. I am not saying there should be more animals running out into busy streets. That would be bad. Cats & Dogs have to trust humans better. And to do that, they need better care because otherwise (especially dogs) they can get aggressive because humans aren't trustworthy to them.