

Submitter: Karen Green

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor

Measure: HB2915

Our organization, the Cat Adoption Team, is a medium-sized nonprofit located in Sherwood, Oregon. Our shelter brings over 45 staff, 500 volunteers, 3000 adopters, and 1000 spay/neuter clients to our shelter each year. We provide a range of programs and services, but as our name suggests, adoption is primary among them. We recognize that people acquire pets from a variety of sources (in the case of cats, it's often that the cat just showed up!). However we share the concerns of other animal welfare organizations nationwide surrounding commercial dog breeding or "puppy mills." These operations have consistently demonstrated a total lack of regard for the health and wellbeing of the dogs in their care, with appalling conditions being more the norm than the exception. Not only do puppy mills harm puppies and breeding dogs; they also present challenges and dilemmas for consumers, who buy and fall in love with puppies who frequently have serious and expensive health problems resulting from poor breeding and/or husbandry.

Nationally, efforts to shut down puppy mills have been long and intensive. Puppies bred in these facilities are sold online and in pet stores. Great progress has been made in banning sales of puppies--and kittens, though they are less commonly bred in these large scale operations--in pet stores. Hundreds of cities and six states have banned pet store sales of puppies and kittens, including both Washington and California. HB 2915 would prohibit pet stores from selling puppies or kittens in Oregon. Stores could still facilitate adoption of pets in partnership with animal shelters and rescues, which happens commonly now, but not sell animals that are, in nearly all cases, sourced from large scale breeding operations.

Please support HB 2915 to protect Oregon consumers as well as dogs and cats.