

Submitter: Tina Arth
On Behalf Of: Animal Aid Inc
Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor
Measure: HB2915

I strongly support the passage of HB 2915. I have been affiliated with Animal Aid, Inc. in Portland as a volunteer and Board member for well over a decade. During that time, I have seen way too many dogs surrendered to rescues or county shelters by guardians who were ill-prepared to care for the animals. A responsible breeder will consider the appropriateness of an animal for a given household based on size, temperament, guardian's experience, and a host of other factors. Responsible breeders also are willing to take their animals back if for some reason the placement doesn't work out, and in most cases they insist that their animals be spayed or neutered to prevent irresponsible "backyard" breeding. Commercial pet stores that sell cats and dogs rely on puppy and kitten mills for their animals, as reputable breeders will not place their animals in these retail outlets. Not only are conditions in such facilities inhumane, but the dogs and cats are much more likely to suffer from genetic defects due to overbreeding and poor selection of mates, and the store owners will sell a cat or dog to anyone willing to spend the money, regardless of how inappropriate the home might be. I realize that there are only a few retail outlets actually selling puppies or kittens in Oregon right now - it is important that we keep it that way by permanently closing the puppy/kitten mill to pet store pipeline.