



**HUMANE SOCIETY
VETERINARY MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION.**

February 2023

House Committee on Business and Labor
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

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Re: Veterinary Support for H.B. 2915, Humane Pet Store Legislation

Dear Committee Members,

On behalf of the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association, we are writing in support of humane pet store legislation (HB 2915) that would prohibit Oregon pet stores from selling dogs and cats. In lieu of these sales, this legislation would promote partnerships between Oregon pet stores and nonprofit rescue groups and municipal shelters for the adoption of cats and dogs from pet shop locations.

The framework in which pet sales occur is changing dramatically. A significant majority of pet stores no longer sell live animals obtained from commercial breeding operations. Instead, many operate successfully using a viable business model in which they partner with rescue organizations to offer animals for adoption in their stores and achieve mutually beneficial results.

By severing connections with inherently inhumane commercial breeding enterprises known as ‘mills,’ pet stores are no longer supporting businesses which often house animals in substandard conditions, provide inadequate veterinary medical care and little to no socialization. As veterinary professionals, we have seen many of these animals in our practices after they have been purchased by Oregon families and end up with severe health and behavior problems, causing unanticipated expenses and severe heartbreak for all involved.

Conversely, by partnering with rescue groups and shelters to offer animals for adoption, pet shops are helping to reduce the societal burdens of housing and/or euthanizing so many animals and also creating goodwill among the adopters, many of whom will become loyal customers for their pet supply needs. Furthermore, those families who still wish to purchase an animal from a breeder can work with responsible breeders who typically require that potential customers personally visit the animals at their breeding facilities rather than selling their animals at a pet shop location.

More than 440 U.S. localities, as well as the states of California, Washington, New York, Illinois, Maryland, and Maine have passed humane pet store laws that prohibit retail sales of dogs and cats at pet shops. Given Oregon's



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history of promoting the humane treatment of animals, we look forward to the state passing a humane pet store law that will benefit both Oregon families and their animal companions.

Signed by Dr. Cierra Buer, HSVMA Oregon State Representative,
and the following Oregon veterinary professionals:

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