

Submitter: Kim Kehoe

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor

Measure: HB2915

My name is Kim Kehoe and I am the Development Coordinator at the Humane Society of the Ochocos in Prineville, Oregon. I am writing to ask that you please support HB 2915.

Pet stores that sell puppies are problematic for many reasons. Animal welfare organizations across the U.S. have been able to prove that most pet store puppies are coming from cruel, dirty facilities where profit is the primary goal. There is nowhere in humane work for backyard breeders who have little care for "their commodity." As a result, these puppies contract contagious illnesses that they can pass to other animals in the population or even sometimes humans. Some of the puppies die from these illnesses or from a congenital defect that has been passed down from the puppy mill mother dog to many subsequent generations. New owners are heartbroken and can be left with veterinary bills in the thousands, or worst...a dog that needs to be humanely euthanized. If the dog does survive, health and behavior issues can persist and put an even deeper burden on the dog, the pet parent's family, veterinary professionals, and others depending upon the specific issue or illness. Ultimately, the substandard breeding of one puppy can lead to problems for a whole community.

As a rural shelter and rescue worker, I see so many dogs and puppies dumped in the desert, by a main highway, and in the woods when they are no longer useful for breeding, or aren't desired product results from the breeding pair. In my daily work I see the horrific reality of animal cruelty and it pains me to think that pet stores in our great state might be perpetuating inhumane standards or adding to our shelter populations. Animal shelters and rescues have become much more the norm across the United States providing adoptable animals in good health and with all of their basic care needs met, before they go home with an adopter. There is just no need for pet stores to sell puppies in this modern era, and HB 2915 would at least prevent any new stores from participating in this practice.

Please, I ask that you VOTE YES on HB 2915 for every Oregonian that loves their pet and wishes for them a better future.