

Submitter: Leamon Bartholomew
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB696

I have been in Animal Control for over 32 years and have held many positions in the Oregon Animal Control Council. With that experience I have been lucky to have good representation by our District Attorney's Office. However most Animal Control agencies have had a hard time getting cases to court. Most District Attorney's offices or city counsel offices do not have a good understanding of Oregon's Animal Neglect and Abuse laws so therefore they have a reluctance to want to take cases to court. Animal Cruelty cases are often precursors to other crimes. An early intervention with an animal cruelty case could alter someone's course in life. And we must not forget that we are trying to help animals who are suffering from these crimes. Having access to a cruelty focused attorney would make it easier for all agencies to handle these cases. That attorney can help by explaining what needs to be done to successfully prosecute these cases. I know that they can even offer to come down and help prosecute these cases because the current cruelty-focused attorney has done this many times. Having a guaranteed funding source would make it more available and hopefully, since Oregon has some of the best Animal Cruelty Laws in the United States, all agencies could better enforce the current laws and protect the animals of Oregon.