



March 15, 2023

House Committee on Judiciary
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support HB 3384

Dear Chair Kropf, Vice Chairs Andersen, Wallan, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Oregon-based supporters of the Humane Society of the United States, please accept this testimony in support of HB 3384, which, among other upgrades, would create a crime of aggravated animal neglect in the first degree and would close the loophole in Oregon's statute preventing future ownership of animals for a specific period of time.

Oregonians care about animal protection, and HB 3384 is in line with that sentiment, refining our cruelty code such that extreme cases of animal abuse including neglect do not go unaddressed.

Crimes against animals can be nuanced when the suffering is a result of failure to provide care. In situations rooted in access to care and resources, HSUS strongly advocates for support-based intervention. While most people care deeply about their pets and will take advantage of the many pet resources available in our state, there are times when animals languish and suffer due to callous disregard. Intentional, prolonged neglect is a crime of violence, and HB 3384 is a legal means to pursue justice for victims of aggravated animal neglect crimes.

Further, HSUS supports strengthening and closing the loophole in Oregon's statute preventing future ownership for convicted animal abusers from owning or having contact with animals for a reasonable period of time, with the goal of disrupting the cycle of animal cruelty, by separating offenders from potential new victims, saving animal lives, and protecting entire communities.

Recidivism rates for animal abuse are staggering – nearly 100% for certain crimes, such as animal hoarding. Moreover, animal abusers pose a serious risk to local communities. People found guilty of animal cruelty overwhelmingly go on to recommit acts of cruelty against animals – and are five times more likely to abuse humans.

HB 3384 would further bolster Oregon's existing animal cruelty laws and provide a much-needed tool for law enforcement to prevent and crack down on aggravated animal abuse.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kelly Peterson
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