



# Willamette Horse Outreach Alliance

501(c)3 Non Profit - Website: [whoasaves.org](http://whoasaves.org) - Email: [whoarescue@gmail.com](mailto:whoarescue@gmail.com)

March 14, 2023

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

TO: Chair Representative Jason Kropf - Vice Chair: Representative Tom Anderson and Representative Kim Wallan - Respective members of the committee

RE: Support for House Bill 3384  
From: Amanda Muse, Founder/Operations officer Willamette Horse Outreach Alliance

Please consider this written testimony in support of House Bill 3384 (HB3384) to create and establish a crime of aggravated animal neglect in the first degree at the state level.

Oregon is a leader in protecting animals across the states. In 2013 Senate Bill 6 stated "Animals are sentient beings capable of experiencing pain, stress and fear; Animals should be cared for in ways that minimize pain, stress, fear and suffering." We believe increased punishments such as fines, jail, and bans on ownership are in line with community support for animal(s) welfare. Discouraging and prosecuting habitual abusers is a step in the right direction to prevent callous disregard, debilitating abuse, and/or intentional neglect across the state. Animal abusers are overwhelmingly more likely to recommit crimes against animals. According to the Animal Legal defense fund, recidivism rates are nearly 100% for certain types of abuse, such as hoarding. Establishing a mandatory ban on possession of future animals, and enforcing them, is a step in the right direction for preventing animal abuse. Below are before photos of some the equines our organization has taken in for care, rehabilitation, and sanctuary after being found neglected and abused. The humans responsible for each of these beings were never held accountable for the intentional disregard of life.

Please VOTE YES.

With Warm regards, thank you for you consideration and ability to submit testimony on this important issue  
Amanda Muse  
WHOA! Rescue and Sanctuary



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