

Submitter: Susanna Askins
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB2915

Oregon is the only market left open on the West coast to puppy-selling pet stores, now that our neighboring states have enacted pet store laws prohibiting the sale of puppies and kittens in pet stores. Over 400 localities across 31 states and five states—including California and Washington—have already enacted a similar policy. With only six Oregon pet stores that still sell puppies and kittens, passing legislation is more important than ever, to help end the puppy mill-to-pet store pipeline and continue to drive the statewide pet industry with toward more humane sources such as shelters, rescues, and responsible breeders.

HB 2915 supports the overwhelming majority of Oregon pet shops and ensure that future businesses adhere to a humane business model. This bill is a commonsense measure that allows the six pet stores in the state currently selling dogs and/or cats to continue to do so and will ensure that Oregon doesn't see an influx of puppy-selling pet stores as other states prohibit them from selling puppies.

HB 2915 supports responsible breeders who sell directly to the public and never through pet stores because they demand to meet potential buyers in person. HB 2915 will not affect responsible breeders or prevent anyone from purchasing a puppy directly from a breeder. In fact, most breed clubs consider it a violation of their code of ethics to sell puppies through third parties, such as pet stores. As the American Kennel Club suggests, those looking for a responsible breeder should meet the breeder, ask questions, see the pup's parents, and get a full medical history. None of that is possible as a pet store.