

Chairman Floyd Prozanski
Senate Committee on Judiciary
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 9730

Honorable Chairman Prozanski and Vice Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Bonnie Wilson and I am a volunteer with Best Friends Animal Society and a proud member of the 2025 Action Team. I am writing in support of HB2915; Prohibits retail pet stores from offering to sell or selling dogs or cats.

I can share many facts about the conditions some dogs and cats face in this state, but to understand why this is so meaningful, I would like to share with you the story of George, a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel that I was honored to call my baby boy.



George was a puppy mill dog. The first couple years of his life had been spent in a barn in Southern Oregon in a small cage. From the second he was able to breed he was used for breeding stock. He was in a small cage, and chained up by his back leg and developed arthritis. Trying to free himself he suffered with broken teeth which resulted in multiple extractions. He also had scratches on his eyes that affected his vision. He was constantly in fear by being surrounded by larger dogs who were also suffering and kept for the same purpose. He did not have access to the outside, to socialization unless it was for breeding, and from what we did not understand until we had been further down the road with received no basic medical care. THIS WAS THE FIRST TWO YEARS OF HIS SHORT LIFE.

His heart specialist told me; "Any doctor would of seen the heart issue in his early years and would of started treatment. This is major evidence that no medical care was provided while he was a part of the breeding faction or puppy mill.

He was rescued by a reputable breeder whose heart broke when she saw him. She could not keep him and sought out a forever home for him and he became a beloved part of our family.

The immense toll his upbringing took on him is hard to put into words. Shortly after he came to live with us, it was found he had a genetic heart condition. He also suffered from nightmares and sever mental trauma; he would shake and tremble at any unexpected loud noises and could only be only calmed by being cradled like a baby by my mother or myself.

Dogs like George are raised like this in puppy mills for one purpose; to maximize profits.

Despite everything George went through, he still was the biggest love bug you would meet. He loved snuggling. He had so much fun hanging out with his girlfriend a small 2lb tea cup yorkie named Zoe who became his own personal guard dog. (She never let any bigger dog near him without approving it), going to my grandmothers

nursing home to visit the residents and give them extra love and even prance in the Oregon Humane Society's Doggie Dash fashion show, in a dress.

He passed prematurely due to what was suspected to be a heart attack from his heart condition. If sharing his story can help another animal not suffer like he did it would honor his little life.

I have the honor of volunteering under Elizabeth Oreck, the manager for Puppy Mill initiatives at Best Friends. In her testimony to the House regarding this bill; she brings up several key points about how this bill will protect future animals and Oregon tax payers from the predatory practices that are seen when mills are allowed to sell to pet stores and pet stores are allowed to sell these animals to the public.

- Many pet stores are frequently accused of predatory lending practices by offering financing upwards of 160%.
- 21 States have been hit with an outbreak of a strain of bacteria called campylobacter that is linked to puppies sold through puppy stores. This bacteria is resistant to antibiotics and contagious to humans.

And to me the most important point she brings up.

- Although the USDA regulates most commercial breeders, these standards do not ensure a safe or healthy life for pets. These dogs are allowed to be confined to cages only six inches larger than their bodies. Having a USDA license does not guarantee ethical breeding.

George was a prime example he was not safe and healthy. I

Please join the over 450 state and municipal jurisdictions that have made this brave step to protect our four footed friends and support HB2915.

Thank you for your time

Bonnie Wilson

Volunteer: Best Friends Animal Society and Action Team 2025 member.

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