



Friends of Felines

Testimony in Support of Oregon House Bill 3604 House Committee on Judiciary

Date: 3/11/25

Friends of Felines respectfully submits our position statement strongly supporting Oregon House Bill 3604 and forthcoming amendments to strengthen its language. This bill is a critical step in addressing the overwhelming stray, community, and feral cat crisis that has escalated in Marion County and surrounding communities.

This bill is necessary to open up rescue and adoption solutions for the countless stray cats in Marion county and beyond— cats that have been denied entry into shelters, due to fear of litigation surrounding current property laws as they pertain to animals.

HB 3604 provides essential legal protections for credible Animal Rescue Entities (ARE) and animal shelters by removing the perceived threat of being charged with theft if an organization intakes a stray cat, provides veterinary care, and adopts it into a new home. This bill ensures that organizations like Friends of Felines and our rescue partners can continue our crucial work without fear of legal retaliation, focusing instead on what truly matters—saving lives.

Friends of Felines and the small rescues across the area have shouldered the responsibility of taking in these abandoned and stray cats from Marion County since Fall 2021. We have worked tirelessly to provide spay & neuter services, high-quality veterinary care, and adopt these cats into loving homes. Without the collaborative efforts from all of the cat rescues, these cats would have remained on the streets, vulnerable to illness, significant injury, and suffering—many of them unlikely to have had a live outcome.

Our organization recognizes the small risk involved with taking in stray cats, but we do so knowing that it is unethical to leave them to suffer outdoor stray life when we have the means to help them. HB 3604 ensures that we can continue this critical work without any unnecessary legal barriers.

Friends of Felines would like to respectfully ask the Committee to support HB 3604, and provide real solutions to Oregon's growing cat crisis.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this critical and lifesaving matter.

Friends of Felines Testimony on HB 3604