



March 10, 2025

To the House Committee on the Judiciary,

My name is Karen Green, and I represent the Cat Adoption Team (CAT), a nonprofit organization and licensed Animal Rescue Entity in the State of Oregon. I am writing to express our agency's support for HB 3604.

Stray cats in Oregon currently exist in a complex legal situation. Depending on the interpretation of the law, cats may be classified as "found property," requiring a 90-day holding period by the finder. This requirement is impractical and inhumane for animal shelters. Unlike cats, dogs are covered by ordinances that exempt them from lost property laws, with standard holding periods of three to five business days. Unfortunately, only two counties in Oregon have ordinances regulating the handling of stray cats by animal services organizations. As a result, Oregon shelters face two difficult choices:

- Leave lost and homeless cats, including those that are sick, injured, or newborn, without assistance, thereby reducing the risk to the agency.
- Provide aid to these cats and any potential owners who may be seeking them, while risking the agency's assets.

There is a need for legal clarification in Oregon to allow municipal animal services agencies and licensed Animal Rescue Entities to assist cats in need without the threat of prosecution. HB 3604 would enable the fair treatment of stray cats, similar to the treatment already provided to stray dogs.

We urge you to take action to advance HB 3604 to ensure the safety and welfare of cats, protect the legal rights of licensed Animal Rescue Entities, and uphold the rights and interests of cat owners.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Karen Green  
Executive Director



## cat adoption team

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