

Submitter: Lora Meisner

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3604

I want to thank the Chair Representative Kropf and members of the committee for your attention to this bill. I have been working on this issue of liability and stray cats here in our Capitol since November 2022.

Two years ago, on a Sunday, during the winter, a young couple was walking their dog in a deserted park. They came across a small kitten—very cold-- sitting next to a shoe box where it had been previously placed. They took the kitten to the Oregon Humane Society on Turner Road and they told the couple that they couldn't take the kitten since it was a stray. They subsequently called me and I took the kitten into my rescue. This couple was very distressed that the Humane Society refused to take the kitten. The Humane society refused the stray kitten because of the liability issue.

You see, this isn't just a "cat problem" this is very much a "people problem." Over the past, almost 2 ½ years, I can't begin to tell you about the tear-filled and distressed calls I've received from residents upon finding moms and litters or hungry emaciated cats or simply recently dumped nice cats that need rescuing. Your constituents all over Oregon, and the residents of the state Capitol have been stepping up to the plate to help to the best of their ability the thousands of stray cats in our community. Now these people as well as all of the rescues are burned out and worn out.

This situation needs to be resolved with the passage of HB 3604. Please support this bill. Thank you.