

March 11, 2025

The Honorable Jason Krof, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

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Chair Kropf, Members of the Committee:

I volunteer for Salem Hospital with a program called FETCH (Fido's Emergency Team for Caring Hospitals, where I see the serious rise in stray cats; but I've also served on the Board of the Willamette Humane Society, where we had a Memorandum of Understanding with Marion County to take unowned/stray cats from Marion County to find new homes.

Over a year ago, this arrangement abruptly stopped, apparently due to the Oregon Humane Society and county not reaching a new MOU. I understand why, from the OHS standpoint: After the merger, OHS's new Salem shelter (WHS) cannot "break" the law because it became part of OHS, a law-enforcing agency.

Since the Oregon Humane Society and Marion County have failed to remedy this situation HB 3604 is essential. It is simply not sustainable to hold unwanted cats for 90 days as "property" when new owners can be found much sooner. We MUST change this law to allow these two shelters to work together again.

I applaud the rescue organizations that have tried to cope with this mounting "inhumane" situation, and support the passage of HB 3604

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