

Submitter: G. Mark Norman
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or SB1076
Topic:

I am a licensed veterinarian in Oregon since 1996 and co-founder of a busy veterinary facility in Northwest Portland, established in 1998. I strongly support the provisions of Senate Bill 1076. Over the years, I have collaborated closely with numerous animal rescue groups, gaining firsthand insight into the challenges of pet overpopulation. During the COVID-19 pandemic, I witnessed a significant surge in demand for companion animals. Unfortunately, as owners returned to work, many were unwilling or unable to continue providing adequate care, leading to a crisis of pet overpopulation. Private and public shelters are now at capacity, and rescue groups are overwhelmed. While the previous Animal Rescue Entity (ARE) legislation was well-intentioned, it did little to address one of the root causes of this crisis: unregulated breeding.

Oregon is, and will remain, an ideal place to own, raise, and breed pets. However, the proliferation of “backyard” breeders has exacerbated the overpopulation problem. These breeders often prioritize profit over animal welfare, neglecting essential considerations such as comfort, health, sanitation, and genetics. Responsible and conscientious breeders, on the other hand, should welcome the modest oversight and annual fee proposed by this legislation, as it promotes higher standards and improves the integrity of the breeding industry. It is illogical to exempt breeders from the same care and sanitation requirements imposed on ARE organizations.

Thank you for your consideration,
G. Mark Norman, DVM
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