

Submitter: Chelsea Davis
On Behalf Of: Animal Rights Collective Portland
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1076

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Chelsea Davis. I am a cofounder of Animal Rights Collective Portland (ARCPDX and a concerned Oregonian wanting to give my support of Senate Bill 1076. This bill, which would direct the Department of Agriculture to create a breeder licensure and standards program for dogs, cats, small mammals, and small birds, and limit the annual license fees for Animal Rescue Entities, is a critical step toward addressing the unsustainable strain on our overburdened shelters and rescues. This legislation is long overdue, and I urge you to support its passage.

Oregon's animal rescues have been licensed and regulated since 2019, yet we continue to face an ongoing shelter capacity crisis. According to Shelter Animals Count, in 2024 alone, 65,764 cats and dogs entered Oregon's shelter and rescue system. These numbers illustrate the immense challenge faced by our animal shelters, which are stretched to their limits as they work tirelessly to provide care, shelter, and lifesaving services for animals in need.

It is vital that we find a secure and equitable financial solution for this program. Without such solutions, increasing licensing fees could potentially overburden Oregon's rescues and shelters—many of which are already at capacity. These shelters serve as an essential public resource, both in urban and rural communities, and it is crucial that we ensure they remain viable and effective in fulfilling their mission.

On the other hand, Oregon breeders are not currently held to any licensing, regulatory, or inspection standards. This is a significant gap in animal welfare oversight. SB 1076 provides an opportunity to hold breeders accountable to reasonable standards for animal care, welfare, disease prevention, and oversight. By implementing a licensure program, Oregon will be able to ensure that breeders are operating in a responsible and ethical manner, preventing overproduction and contributing to the overall reduction of shelter intake.

The passage of SB 1076 will not only help ensure better outcomes for animals but will also help our rescues, shelters, and breeders work toward a more sustainable and humane system. The time to act is now, and I strongly encourage the committee to support this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Chelsea Davis