

Submitter: Heather Bauman  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and  
Wildfire  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1076

As a Gladstone resident who volunteers with animal rescues, supports ethical breeders, and has rescue and well bred animals themselves, I support a license for dog and cat breeders in Oregon.

There is a crisis with the animal population. Dogs, cats and other pet animals are being abandoned at shelters or even worse, outside left to fend for themselves. The dogs and cats in particular are left to the care of shelters and rescues to "clean up" the problem caused by unethical breeders, who are free to produce litter after litter because there is no repercussion. Yes, breeders who produce a certain amount of litters or more are licensed by the USDA, but any fewer than that number are left to keep producing. Ethical, responsible breeders will do all recommended health testing to make sure they are producing healthy animals, will breed for temperament instead of color, and also have contracts with their buyers that the animal will be returned to them, the breeder, if the buyer is unable to keep the animal at any time. This, as long as the buyer bides by that contract, protects the animal from being in a shelter or rescue. However, this is not the case for most animals sold as they are sold either by a pet store or what is called a "backyard breeder" who is breeding any animal who can breed just to make a profit. Look at Craigslist's Pet section and you will see why our shelters are so full; so many unethical breeders producing unhealthy, anxious puppies and kittens without a spay/neuter contract, vaccines, or a contract to bring the pet back to them if they cannot keep it.

If anything else, please remember; it makes absolutely no sense to penalize those doing the clean up with more fees rather than those making the mess. We must penalize "litterers", not the clean up crews. Please make anyone who breeds dogs and cats need to have a license. Thank you.