

Joan Gail Hill
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Testimony regarding Oregon Senate Bill 1076

Dear Chairman Golden, Vice-chair Nash, and members of the committee:

Thank you for encouraging my written testimony. After listening to the testimony yesterday I was not at my best. The content of this document has already been shared in a report to the Chintimini Kennel Club with more to follow.

After hearing the testimony in session, in the end it is really all about money and funding. There seems to me to be a pretty clear thread of making more people pay for animal rescue processes, particularly breeders. It is another way to squeeze us for more money since the state certainly isn't going to volunteer to pay for a mandated program. It is yet another unfunded mandate.

It is also clear from some of the testimony that, if the numbers quoted are accurate, if Oregon rescues and shelters took dogs in ONLY from dogs born in the USA, there probably would not be a need to raise more money. And there would probably be a dog shortage.

It is also clear that breeders of dogs in foreign countries such as Turkey, China, Mexico and elsewhere are more valued by the rescue community because they provide the resource animals for adoption, sometimes sick ones. It is not our job as taxpayers to rescue all of the animals in the world who are mistreated by our standards. At this time Oregon is having difficulty educating human children.

Meanwhile American breeders are devalued and disrespected. One person admitted to scanning online placement services to find breeders in Oregon to target. That individual, a female, referenced breeders placing dogs sight unseen using these services. How would they know the details? I use an online service for payment but I refuse to ship a dog anywhere and before I place one the application process is rigorous and in person. Kinda creepy to me that people are stalking breeders online as targets and with potential misinformation. At least one presenter reference eliminating breeders entirely.

So essentially the current system pays for foreign breeders to provide the dogs for rescue, sometimes from the meat trade, while discounting those of us involved in purpose-bred healthy, genetically diverse canines who are socialized from day one. And then we are blamed for filling the shelters. We do not get credit for the fact that every breed club associated with AKC has a breed specific rescue resource and has had for 40 years. We do not get credit for the financial contributions to local economies when we, as volunteers and breeders, provide venues for conformation dog shows, agility trials, and all the other fun activities for canine/human partners. These shows generate real money, one quote was over \$2 million dollars at a local show in Albany, Oregon and considerably more for Portland shows. We also do not get credit for the veterinary clinics we provide with services provided by canine ophthalmologists

and cardiologists at substantially reduced rates. Volunteers do the scheduling and run these activities. We also bring in vendors who provide other veterinary services. We provide rescue trailers to be used in supporting animal rescues in crisis situations including wildfires and other natural disasters. And we provide scholarships for students in the veterinary program at Oregon State University.

Not all breeders are responsible and ethical, of that there is no doubt. That's why we have a legal system. But the wide brush used to label all breeders and all AKC activities under the same umbrella is patently unfair. And I do think it is unfair to expect us to bail out the rescue system that we had no hand or input in developing and that relies on foreign imports. Why are the foreign breeders encouraged and Oregon breeders discriminated against?

Finally, I do think that the bill needs to respect that Oregon Revised Statute states that "breeder" means more than three litters a year. The introduction to the bill does not concur with Oregon law. It needs to align with the statute.

I will likely share this letter with a number of audiences. You are the first to see it as I felt the need to articulate where I am really coming from. That is hard to do in two minutes.

Best regards,

Joan "Gail" Hill
Linn County Kennel Club
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