

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

Please oppose SB 1076.

I'm writing to address the second part of the bill, regarding breeders. I genuinely appreciate the intent of the bill, and we need to do something about irresponsible breeding that is contributing to overpopulation and animal suffering. Unfortunately, the second part of the bill doesn't do that, and will have a backfire effect.

Responsible breeders would welcome animal safeguards and inspections, but requiring a licensing fee would subtract from measures that responsible breeders take. Most responsible breeding is not a profitable endeavor, breeders do it for the love of their animals. They incur significant costs, including health testing and genetic screening before breeding. Most of us wouldn't hesitate to mortgage our house or sell a kidney if it meant our pets were healthier and lived longer. It will be responsible breeders who obtain a license, and that money will take away from their ability to do additional health testing and screenings. Backyard breeders and puppy mills will go rogue and won't bother with the licensing process, and without a huge enforcement budget they'll get away with it.

Personally, I would gladly pay a licensing fee and welcome inspectors to my home if it meant reducing the overpopulation and suffering that backyard breeders and puppy mills cause. However, that is a point of privilege that many responsible breeders can't afford, which means spending money on licensing reduces the money they have to spend on health checks. For many others, it would mean raising prices on responsibly bred puppies, which makes backyard breeders and puppy mills more attractive to buyers. Meanwhile, unless many millions of dollars are budgeted for enforcement, backyard breeders and puppy mills will continue to cause overpopulation and suffering without bothering with licensing.

Please vote no on SB 1076, or at least amend it to strike the second part about breeders, but please continue to work on solutions.

Thanks you,  
Deren Ash  
La Pine, OR