

Submitter:	Tanya Harding
On Behalf Of:	Meow Village
Committee:	Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	SB1076

My name is Tanya Harding. I am Co-Chair of Meow Village, an all-volunteer, non-profit rescue organization focused on improving the quality of life of feral and at-risk cats. Meow Village serves Clackamas, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Washington, and Yamhill counties. I am writing on behalf of Meow Village in support of Senate Bill 1076.

Just as Animal Rescue Entities (AREs) are subject to reasonable State regulation, and contribute to the cost of their own oversight and regulation, companion animal breeders - who profit from the sale of animals while contributing to the overpopulation problem through unregulated and sometimes irresponsible or inhumane animal breeding - must be held at least to the same standard as are AREs. Licensing and regulating breeders as provided in Senate Bill 1076 will help stem the flood of cats and kittens, along with other companion animals, that are overflowing Oregon's AREs.

The standard of care provided by SB 1076 is well within reach of reputable breeders, who do not put cats and kittens at risk. This Bill will legitimately control, improve, and weed out unscrupulous animal breeders. And there can be no doubt that better control is needed.

Meow Village took in nearly 1000 cats in 2024; we expect to exceed that number this year. Our 2025 in-take list already has more than 230 requests waiting; many surrender requests involve ten or more cats, and some have 30 or more. We are forced to triage those asking us for help – because we know cannot save them all. Every day we turn cats and kittens away, directing them to other AREs that are also overflowing because we do not have the resources to care for them all. There are simply too many kittens are being born but not cared for.

Many of the cats and kittens Meow Village takes in are abandoned. Though it is impossible to know the proportion, at least some of those abandoned animals were discarded by unscrupulous breeders trying to profit through unregulated breeding programs. Such breeding programs provide little or no safeguards for the health of the breeding cats, or the kittens that result. When cat pairings do not produce the desired traits, or the kittens are not selling fast enough or for enough money, entire litters are discarded by unscrupulous breeders – contributing to the abandoned, stray, and feral cat explosion.

Poor breeding practices, including in-breeding, often lead to genetic defects and terrible physical deformities – and afflicted kittens are abandoned, left outside to die by irresponsible and uncaring breeders. In the last few years, Meow Village has taken in entire litters of kittens that appear to be the result of inhumane breeding programs. Not surprisingly, caring for such kittens requires considerably more resources than average – including increased veterinarian costs, longer time in foster homes, and the heartache toll of tending to them, sometimes including euthanasia.

Meow Village is only one of Oregon's many AREs – all of which are doing everything they can to rescue the animals that come to their doors. But having more, or more robust, or better regulated, or better funded AREs can only ever be one part of the solution. Oregon must find effective ways to stem the flood of stray and abandoned cats and kittens, and other companion animals. SB 1076 is a necessary piece of this puzzle!

Meow Village urges you to advance Senate Bill 1076, and eventually pass it into law. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.