

# Legislative Session 2020

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## HB 4053: Proposal to allow a county to decouple proof of rabies vaccination for dogs from pet licensure

### Background

- **ORS 433.375** - “No official of any county shall issue a license for a dog until the official has been shown a proper certification, or its equivalent, of a rabies inoculation.”
- ORS 433.375 has created an unnecessary barrier to pet licensure
  - We have data that correlates the requirement for proof of pet rabies vaccination when licensing online to the abandonment of purchasing a pet license.
    - Pet owners start the process and stop when they are required to provide proof of vaccination.
  - **The County observed a 35% reduction over a 3 month period in online pet licensing once proof of vaccination was required to be uploaded.**
- Licensing is the most effective and efficient way to identify an animal and reunite it with its owners
- Technology has changed, pet owners no longer leave their vet with a packet of information and a paper proof of rabies vaccination
  - The proof is now on a secure system at your vet’s office, and is not readily accessible from your home when you need to license your pet.

### Proposed Statute Change

- Multnomah County **does not** seek a change to the statutory requirement that all dogs 6 months or older be inoculated against rabies (ORS 433.365).
- Multnomah proposes **to allow a county to decouple the two requirements** — to confirm rabies vaccination prior to issuing a license for a dog (ORS 433.375) — **IF the county has another mechanism in place to monitor/enforce the rabies vaccination requirement.**
- This solution will allow Multnomah to restore/increase pet license rates.
  - Increased licensing will provide identification for more animals, making it easier to facilitate reunions when they are lost.
  - Increased sales will support animal welfare programs and ensure that our facilities are staffed at safe and appropriate levels.
- Multnomah would still have the ability to enforce the requirement to inoculate pets against rabies, through a county ordinance requiring veterinarians to submit vaccination data to Multnomah County, but not at the cost of significantly reducing pet licensure.

### Support HB 4053

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