



WASHINGTON COUNTY OREGON

February 4, 2020

To: House Committee on Natural Resources

Re: Support for HB 4053

Dear Chair Witt and Members of the House Committee on Natural Resources:

Washington County Animal Services supports HB 4053.

This bill will help ensure that dog owners are able to easily register their pets as required and will help identify dogs that are not currently vaccinated for rabies.

The current requirement, that dog owners provide proof of current rabies vaccination before being issued a dog license simply results in substantially fewer dogs being registered at all, barring any attempts to ensure compliance with the vaccination requirements and elevating concerns related to public health and safety when dogs are not vaccinated. In Washington County and across the State of Oregon, dog licenses provide a record that coincides with and documents a dog's rabies vaccination status. This Bill will update antiquated language in the Oregon Statute and allow for more modern and efficient dog license and rabies vaccination verification. This Bill won't mandate a change of practice in those Counties that like the current system. However, this Bill will allow jurisdictions like Washington County to implement systems that provide better and more efficient practices to ensure compliance with the rabies vaccination laws for our canine pets and their owners.

Washington County Animal Services very much supports this Bill and we believe passing it will make the registration of dogs and verification of rabies vaccinations more efficient and convenient for our citizens.

Please vote to pass HB 4053 out of committee.

Respectfully,

Randall B. Covey, Manager
Washington County Animal Services