



**House Bill 4021-A / Public Hearing
February 22, 2012**

**Senate Committee on Judiciary
Sen. Floyd Prozanski, Chair & Sen. Jeff Kruse, Vice Chair**

Position: Support

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Kruse and Committee Members:

The Oregon Veterinary Medical Association supports House Bill 4021-A, and we are asking for your support.

Animal neglect and abuse exists in every county in Oregon, and veterinarians are on the treating end of such mistreatment and cruelty. While simple neglect can often be remediated through outreach and education, more serious crimes of cruelty can be challenging and necessitate an experienced investigation.

The Humane Special Agents with the Oregon Humane Society play an essential role in helping us as a state to address such neglect and cruelty – many times leading an investigation and often lending experience and support to local law enforcement with difficult cases. These Special Agents, many of whom are retired police officers, are well-trained and certified individuals. With the support from veterinarians, they have broad knowledge of animal welfare and experience with investigating cruelty cases across Oregon.

As you know, the Governor historically has commissioned the Humane Special Agents. However, given the training these individuals receive through the police academy, and from their subsequent certification, we believe a commission by the Superintendent of the Oregon State Police is logical and would be a good placement.

We are asking for your support on this legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Glenn M. Kolb
Executive Director