

**Senate Bill 698  
Position: Support**

**March 26, 2013**

**Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Chair, Sen. Floyd Prozanski / Vice Chair, Sen. Betsy Close**

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Close and Committee Members:

I am here this morning on behalf of the Oregon Veterinary Medical Association in support of Senate Bill 698.

Animal neglect in the first degree is a serious offense – one in which the actions of an individual causes serious physical injury to an animal or leads to that animal's death.

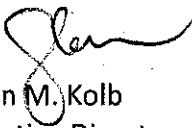
What is important about Senate Bill 698 is that it takes into account a person's prior history – his or her conviction of animal neglect. And it says to such offenders that they have proven to the State that they either are unwilling or incapable of providing reasonable care to animals. When this happens, punishment will be upgraded to a higher and more serious penalty.

Oregon has a national reputation for having sound animal welfare laws – among the best in the country. And we believe that Senate Bill 698 makes them even better.

That is why the Oregon Veterinary Medical Association supports Senate Bill 698 – and it is the reason we are asking for your support as well.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Glenn M. Kolb  
Executive Director