



March 26, 2013

Chairman Brad Witt and Committee Members
House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
900 Court St
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for House Bill 2783 and -3 amendment

Dear Chairman Witt and Members of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee:

On behalf of Washington County Animal Services I urge you to support House Bill 2783 and the proposed dash-3 amendment. This bill addresses a current gap in the animal welfare laws of Oregon by providing clarity and direction for field enforcement officers responding to concerns about animals left unattended.

I am also representing the Oregon Animal Control Council, whose membership is comprised of animal services officers and animal welfare professionals across the State of Oregon. As a current member and past president of the Oregon Animal Control Council, I have been authorized to urge your support of House Bill 2783 and the proposed dash-3 amendment on the OACC's behalf.

House Bill 2783 and the dash-3 amendment contain language that will help field officers address many complaints from concerned neighbors, friends and even relatives of animal owners. These people often have valid concerns about animals tethered outside. As a field officer for many years, and as a field supervisor charged with providing guidance and direction to officers responding to animal welfare concerns, the current language in the ORS statute is difficult to work with or interpret. Based on my experience, animals tethered outside for extended periods of time are more likely to become aggressive, bark continuously, get tangled in their own tether or surrounding obstacles and be neglected. Too often, that neglect results in animals with serious skin conditions like dermatitis caused by flea infestations and allergies; injuries like collars imbedded in the neck that go unnoticed; and destructive and dangerous behaviors that compromise the safety and serenity of the surrounding neighborhoods.

House Bill 2783 and the dash-3 amendment provides clear language that encourages responsible pet ownership, addresses violations with appropriate penalties, fills a gap in current animal welfare law, and provides appropriate exemptions that recognize common and acceptable behavior or practices.

On behalf of both the Oregon Animal Control Council and Washington County Animal Services in support of this bill, thank you for your serious consideration.

Sincerely and respectfully submitted,

Randall B. Covey
Field Operations Supervisor
Washington County Animal Services
1901 SE 24th Avenue, MS 53
Hillsboro, OR 97123
503-846-7143