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Date: March 14, 2013

To: **Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee**
Brad Witt, Chair
Sal Esquivel, Vice-Chair
Caddy McKeown, Vice-Chair

From: Wendy Reimer
Humane Investigator, Oregon Humane Society

Re: House Bill 2783

Established in 1868, the Oregon Humane Society is the state's largest and oldest animal welfare organization with over 50,000 supporters statewide. We are not affiliated with any local or national organization.

We urge you to vote yes on HB 2783.

When the Investigations Department at the Oregon Humane Society receives a report of animal neglect—including no shelter, no water, no food, and issues of sanitation—it is regularly accompanied with a description of a dog on a chain. As evidenced by these frequent reports, tethered dogs are much more likely to become victims of neglect. Some dogs are reported to live in these conditions for months or years on end.

The Humane Investigators of OHS see the effects of continuous tethering first-hand. In one case a female dog, named Angel, was chained in a four foot wide run that was covered in inches of mud, feces and standing water. She was emaciated and had open sores worn into her front legs by the heavy chain around her neck. The wounds were raw and oozing from infection. There was nowhere Angel could go to get out of the mud and waste. Angel's owner was cited and convicted for Animal Neglect in the First Degree and she was adopted by a local prosecutor. It's odd to think of Angel as "lucky," but sadly the story of how she used to live is repeated in many cases, often with a more tragic ending.

Countless cases flow through the Investigations complaint line involving tethered dogs. Unfortunately it is not uncommon for investigators to find multiple dogs living on short chains around a person's property, or yards where the dogs' water and food bowls are empty or nonexistent, or structures called "shelters" that leave dogs vulnerable to wind and rain, most of which are already flooded.

Tethering a dog is inherently dangerous, the ensuing neglect notwithstanding. Long tethers become tangled around dogs and other debris within their environment and result in injuries. In extreme cases dogs hang themselves to death trying to escape over a fence or barrier. In the alternative I have seen many dogs tethered to cables that are too short, forcing them to sleep in the same small area where they defecate.

This is your opportunity to be the angel that this Angel needed:



I urge you to give Humane Investigators a tool to improve the lives of these dogs and vote yes on HB 2783.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wendy Reimer".

Wendy Reimer
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