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Oregon House of Representatives  
Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

HB2783

Hearing March 28, 2013

8:00 AM

Members of the Committee:

With all due respect to the effort to protect pets from abuse, this bill is unnecessary, illogical, redundant, and is an unnecessary intrusion into the lives of many good animal caretakers. While tethering a dog may not be aesthetically pleasing to many observers, it is not, in itself inhumane. I do not tether my dogs so I do not “have a dog in this fight”. However, I do have several clients that do and are not mistreating their pets any more than my clients that leave their dogs in a crate for extended periods

Please consider the following:

1. It is no less confining to a dog to be properly tethered for 6 hours than to be kenneled.
2. How can it be inherently humane to tether a dog when camping but it becomes inhumane when the dog is tethered at home?
3. How can it be inhumane to tether an animal that is unattended but humane if “in the physical presence of a person”? If the intent is animal safety, we all know that if an animal is improperly tethered, it can injure itself in far less than the 5 hour limit allowed by this bill. Pets can be, and are safely tethered for extended periods of time.

4. Pet owners facing an emergency situation may need to tether their pet to manage through a difficult time. i.e., moving, construction, accident, etc.
5. We currently have a code of humane treatment laws that define “good husbandry procedures” and regulate proper nutrition, water, protection from the elements, medical care, etc. (ORS 167.310-067.351). This law is redundant.
6. It is interesting to note that this law exempts horses and cattle. How can it be more humane to tether free ranging animals such as these? I would suggest that this measure is designed to appeal to our emotions, not our powers of logic.

While tethering may not be the way most of us in urban areas chose to care for our dogs and may be a practice we would rather not see others engage in, it is simply **not** inhumane. Further, it may be a suitable alternative to dogs running at large in many rural areas. We have laws that regulate humane treatment. This is unnecessary meddling.

Sincerely,

Robert Bullard D.V.M.