

Raszka Shelley

From: Gallagher Chuck
Sent: Sunday, April 12, 2015 4:11 PM
To: Raszka Shelley
Subject: FW: "Yes" on HB 3141-1

-----Original Message-----

From: ccarth@uci.edu [<mailto:ccarth@uci.edu>]
Sent: Sunday, April 12, 2015 4:11 PM
To: "rep.bradwitt@state.or.us <rep.bradwitt@state.or.us>, rep.WayneKrieger@state.or.us <rep.WayneKrieger@state.or.us>, rep.SusanMclain@state.or.us <rep.SusanMclain@state.or.us>, Rep.GregBarreto@state.or.us <Rep.GregBarreto@state.or.us>, rep.CaddyMcKeown@state.or.us " " <rep.CaddyMcKeown@state.or.us>, " rep.SalEsquivel@state.or.us " <rep.SalEsquivel@state.or.us>, " rep.ChrisGorsek@state.or.us " <rep.ChrisGorsek@state.or.us>, " rep.LewFrederick@state.or.us " <rep.LewFrederick@state.or.us>, " rep.paulholvey@state.or.us " <rep.paulholvey@state.or.us>, " chuck.gallagher@state.or.us " <chuck.gallagher@state.or.us>"
Subject: "Yes" on HB 3141-1

Dear Chair Witt and Members of the Committee:

RE: House Bill 3141 (Proposed Amendment of ORS 646.A.075)

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 3141, which expands ORS 646.075 to include the regulation of establishments providing or offering to provide dogs by lease or rental. This much-needed legislation will close an extraordinary loophole in current state law that exempts lessors of dogs from the regulations that govern conduct by retail establishments that sell dogs (and other pets).

While I am writing to express only my own personal opinion, my views on this matter are informed by 8+ years of volunteer work (including my current role as president of the board of directors) for Animal Aid, a Portland non-profit animal welfare advocacy/rescue. In particular, I am concerned about the current situation where lessors are not required to provide accurate information about the source of the dogs they rent/lease. In the past few years, I have heard multiple reports of lessors or their agents claiming that their dogs came from local rescues, specifically including both Animal Aid and Indigo Rescue. Neither of these organizations has ever released an animal to the custody of a commercial leasing company.

In addition, a local mall (Washington Square) is owned by Macerich, a Real Estate Investment Trust that specifically bans the sale of live animals in its malls (effective 2011). However, there is a pet-leasing store in the mall, perhaps allowed under the theory that its primary purpose is helping to re-home rescue animals. Clear information on the source of leased dogs would provide data that might allow Macerich to make an informed decision about how pet-leasing firms fit into their nation-wide policy.

There is currently, to my knowledge, only one company in Oregon engaging in commercial dog-leasing, and thus it might seem like the proposed legislation is somehow unfairly directed at a single entity. However, if this business model proves profitable it is reasonable to predict that others would move into this potentially lucrative market. The time is right to enact legislation that provides the same protection to lessors as is currently provided to purchasers of dogs (not to mention the same protection for the dogs!).

Sincerely,

Tina Arth
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