



**To:** Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
Senator Chris Edwards, Chair  
Senator Alan Olsen, Vice-Chair

**Re:** HB 2474

May 27, 2015

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 are here today to ask for your support of HB 2474.**

James Herriot is the quintessential veterinarian; running a solo practice while making house calls to his clients with livestock. Numerous changes to the veterinary field have taken place since Dr. Herriot's day, one of which is the solo vet practice. The number of Oregonians with pets is significant.<sup>1</sup> In order to meet the needs of Oregon's animals, veterinary practices are now owned by a variety of entities, from the solo practitioner to nonprofit corporations.

Regardless of who owns the clinic, the field of veterinary medicine takes significant expertise and impacts a highly vulnerable population of patients. All entities endeavoring to provide that type of service need to be held to the same standard of care with oversight by a uniform body. House Bill 2474 would amend existing law to protect animal patients in the wake of the shift from single practitioner clinics to clinics owned and operated by a variety of different entities. So long as this piece of legislation treats all hospital owners equally it will ensure uniform veterinary service to all Oregonians at the clinic of their choice.

The sentiment of care and compassion that motivated James Herriot's work prevails throughout the veterinary community, but the means by which it is carried out have changed. The law needs to be updated and adapted to the current veterinary practice landscape in the best interest of Oregonians and their animals. Please vote **yes** on HB 2474.

Sincerely,

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.avma.org/news/pressroom/pages/TopBottomTenStatesForPets.aspx>