

Dear Chair Burdick and Committee Members:

On behalf of The Humane Society of the United States and our members and supporters in Oregon, I'm writing to urge you to vote NO on SCR 4, the bill to designate the Border Collie as Oregon's official state dog.

As a dog lover who has known and enjoyed the company of many Border Collies over the years, in no way do I mean to disparage this amazing breed of dog. They are known for their keen intellect, nonstop work ethic, and boundless energy. Border Collies have indeed played an important role in Oregon's history, and continue to lend their talents and abilities throughout our state as working stock dogs, therapy animals, and family companions.

Sadly, as I write this, it is likely there are dozens, and maybe even hundreds of purebred Border Collies languishing in Oregon animal shelters, along with a wide assortment of other purebred and mixed-breed dogs. Rather than showcase one particular breed over another, we would prefer to see Oregon lawmakers support HCR 16, the bill to designate shelter dogs as the official Oregon state dog.

Oregon's animal shelter community works tirelessly to do a largely thankless job in caring for the homeless dogs who for whatever reason find themselves awaiting adoption in both public and private animal shelters. Shelter professionals work to rehabilitate these animals, many of whom have been abandoned, abused, and neglected, and match them to good, permanent, loving homes. For their resilience in the face of adversity, their unconditional love, and their willingness to love again after enduring mistreatment at the hands of humans, we believe shelter dogs have earned the right to be recognized as Oregon's official state dog.

Thank you for considering our position on this legislation, and for your service to the people and animals of Oregon.

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The Humane Society of the United States is the nation's largest animal protection organization, rated [most effective](#) by our peers. For 60 years, we have celebrated the protection of all animals and confronted all forms of cruelty. We are the nation's largest provider of [hands-on services](#) for animals, caring for more than 100,000 animals each year, and we prevent cruelty to millions more through our [advocacy campaigns](#).

The HSUS is approved by the [Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance](#) for all 20 standards for charity accountability, and was named by [Worth Magazine](#) as one of the 10 most fiscally responsible charities. To support The HSUS, please make a [monthly donation](#), or give in [another way](#). You can also [volunteer](#) for The HSUS, and see our [55 ways you can help animals](#). Read more about our 60 years of [transformational change](#) for animals, and visit us online at [humanesociety.org](#).