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Testimony of Humane Oregon on House Bill 2637 (2017)
House Committee on Judiciary

March 28, 2017

Chair Barker, Vice Chair Olson, Vice Chair Williamson, and members of the Committee:

Humane Oregon is a bi-partisan, non-profit organization formed in 2014 to help advocate for animal welfare in Oregon's political process and elections. We are a moderate but progressive animal welfare organization, with board members from many different parts of Oregon's animal welfare community.

Humane Oregon supports HB2637, which would create the crime of animal abuse in the third degree. For an abuser to be charged with second degree animal abuse he or she must act in a manner that "causes physical injury" to an animal. We believe that a person who acts to abuse an animal should be convicted regardless of whether they succeed in causing visible physical damage to their victim. At minimum, adding this third tier to animal abuse law would make Oregon's judicial system fairer for animals. Additionally, we hope this law will help deter animal abuse.

Thank you for considering our comments.

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