



Date: April 6, 2017

To: **House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources**
Representative Brian Clem, Chair
Representative Susan McLain, Vice-Chair
Representative Sherrie Sprenger, Vice-Chair
Representative Greg Barreto
Representative Sal Esquivel
Representative Caddy McKeown
Representative Karin Power
Representative David Brock Smith
Representative Brad Witt

From: **John Hopkinson**
Investigations Program Assistant, Oregon Humane Society

Re: **House Bill 3044**

Established in 1868, the Oregon Humane Society (OHS) 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 urge you to support HB 3044.

One of the qualities we value in our canine companions is their ability to find joy in something as simple as a ride in the car. Unfortunately, this routine activity can have dire consequences for dogs and for motorists if the dog is not securely contained in or on the vehicle.

According to the American Humane Association, approximately 100,000 dogs are killed or injured each year in the United States in accidents involving unsecured dogs riding in truck beds. Dogs riding unsecured in truck beds are not only at risk at jumping or being thrown from the vehicle, they are often injured within the exterior part of the vehicle. Loose rocks, gravel, and flying debris have the potential to cause serious harm to animals in the exterior parts of vehicles.

Transporting dogs in truck beds is not only dangerous for the dog; it is dangerous for the driver and those around them. If a driver has to swerve or stop suddenly to avoid a hazard on the road, an unrestrained dog

can become a projectile. An unrestrained 10-pound dog in a crash at 50 mph will exert roughly 500 pounds of force, while an unrestrained 80-pound dog in a crash at only 30 mph will exert approximately 2400 pounds of force. In addition, loose dogs in the back of pickup trucks are an unnecessary distraction. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reported that 20 percent of injury crashes in 2009 involved reports of distracted driving.

Over the past few years, concerned Oregonians have inundated the Oregon Humane Society with complaints involving dogs unrestrained in truck beds. Reporting parties often state that dogs are showing “obvious signs of distress, repeatedly attempting to jump from vehicle to escape discomfort,” “hanging over the side,” “shaking like crazy,” and “agitated and about to jump out.” A sampling of pictures captured by concerned Oregonians of unrestrained dogs in truck beds can be seen in the attached exhibit.

The beds of trucks are designed to carry cargo, not animals. They are not designed to offer protection in a crash or prevent a canine passenger from jumping out or being ejected. Whether upon highways, on residential streets, or parked in a public area, dogs and humans can be protected by the safe containment of dogs in vehicles.

Please vote YES on HB 3044.

Sincerely,



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Exhibits attached:

- Photo Exhibit
- Articles

Sources:

- https://www.kurgo.com/content/2011_survey_sheet.pdf
- https://www.avma.org/KB/Resources/LiteratureReviews/Documents/dogs_trucks_bgnd.pdf
- <http://europepmc.org/backend/ptpmcrender.fcgi?accid=PMC1687001&blobtype=pdf>
- <https://media.ford.com/content/fordmedia/fna/us/en/news/2013/09/12/ford-and-american-humane-association-remind-pickup-truck-drivers.pdf>