

To members of Oregon House Rules Committee:

Copied below is a post I sent to Representative David Gomberg in opposition to proposed House Concurrent Resolution 16, FYI.

Sincerely,

Lawrence T. Schwartz, Ph.D.

Vice President for Science & Research

English Springer Spaniel Foundation

and

Chair, Genetics & Health Committee

English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Assn.

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----- Forwarded Message -----

**Subject:**House Concurrent Resolution 16

**Date:**Fri, 17 Mar 2017 16:50:36 -0700

**From:**Lawrence Schwartz <[vanityfr@peak.org](mailto:vanityfr@peak.org)>

**To:**[rep.davidgomberg@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:rep.davidgomberg@oregonlegislature.gov)

**CC:**[Sen.ArnieRoblan@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Sen.ArnieRoblan@oregonlegislature.gov), [naja@naiaonline.org](mailto:naja@naiaonline.org), Janee Kemp  
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Dear Representative Gomberg:

As one of your constituents (Seal Rock), I am protesting House Concurrent Resolution 16 which you introduced. This Resolution would designate rescued shelter dogs as the official Oregon State Dog. For many reasons, this resolution is of great concern to me. For one, such a resolution would be of great detriment to the thousands of owners and responsible hobby breeders in Oregon of pure-bred dogs in Oregon. Responsible hobby breeders, of which I am one, are concerned with breeding healthy animals which represent our breeds to the general public. For example, I and most other pure-bred dog breeders routinely test our breeding animals for genetic disorders shown to have incidence in our breeds. I breed English Springer Spaniels and, for generations since 1958, I have routinely tested for the disorders PFK, PRA, hip and elbow dysplasia to keep my dogs and those I place with the public free of these disorders. Puppies from my breeding are not placed until they are 12 weeks old to insure proper initial socialization. These are not done with rescued shelter dogs.

Our breed maintains both a DNA and a cancer tissue bank. The samples are used in research into genetic diseases with incidence in our breed and for animal models for research into these diseases in humans. Again, rescued shelter animals are not routinely used for these purposes because of their unknown genetic backgrounds.

Naming shelter rescued dogs as the State Dog will bestow huge public relations and branding benefits to purveyors of shelter rescued dogs. A very large number of these animals are imported from unregulated sources, transported up the I-5 corridor from out of state and often from out of the country, some shelters now importing dogs from Korea. According to the Oregon Humane Society's own records, 70% of the dogs they received last year came from outside their service area.

Finally, according to the National Animal Interest Alliance, the following four factors should be seriously considered before naming shelter rescued dogs as the Oregon State Dog. These are:

- a. Zoonotic and infectious diseases and parasites such as rabies, TB, canine brucellosis, screw worm, common infectious diseases and parasites. Korean flu is now infecting American Dogs, probably originating from rescued dogs from Korea.
- b. the lack of transport oversight.
- c. Higher incidence of temperament issues in rescue and shelter dogs.
- d. the displacement of healthy, well-socialized dogs in destination communities by overwhelming numbers of out-of-area dogs.

Please reconsider your introduction of this Resolution.

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Please add that a more appropriate designation for State Dog would be the many service trained dogs that help our disadvantaged, i.e. seeing eye dogs, guide dogs, therapy dogs, search and rescue dogs, drug detection dogs, explosive detection dogs, seizure prediction dogs, etc.

Also, if shelter dogs become the state dog, what kind of picture would be appropriate. Such dogs are pure-bred, mixed breed, tall, short, long or short and multi-colored. If we have a state dog, what kind of composite would be appropriate for it.

This is a bad bill and should not become law.

Lawrence T. Schwartz, Ph.D.

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