

Hello,

**I am writing to express strong disapproval of the proposed resolutions to designate either ‘shelter dogs’ (House Concurrent Resolution 16) or the Border Collie (Senate Concurrent Resolution 4) as the ‘State Dog of Oregon.’**

Border Collie:

- The Border Collie was not developed in Oregon. They have no historic role in Oregon.
- They work sheep in many states and countries. That is not special to Oregon.
- This designation would spark an increase in people wanting Border Collies for pets and they are active and smart and not appropriate for people who cannot keep them busy. This would end up with more of them in shelters. Not good for the dogs or the people.

Rescue dogs:

- The traditional mission of Oregon shelters was to shelter, rehabilitate and adopt out local dogs. Now, most are imported from other parts of the country or from outside of the country. Some come from Korea. The supply of out-of-state dogs is virtually endless.
- Unregulated mass importation of dogs into Oregon shelters may introduce issues like Zoonotic and infectious diseases and parasites such as rabies, TB, canine brucellosis, screw worm, common infectious diseases and parasites, or Korean flu.
- There is a lack of oversight on the transportation of these dogs.
- There is a higher incidence of temperament issues in rescue and shelter dogs
- *Healthy, well-socialized dogs and local shelter dogs in Oregon communities may be displaced by overwhelming numbers of out-of-area dogs*

Ideas of what to do instead:

- Forget about naming an official state dog of Oregon.
- **If Oregon needs an official state dog, how about naming all categories of Service/Assistance Dogs as Oregon’s state dog?** There are many categories including Service dogs, Therapy dogs, Emotional support dogs, Reading Buddy dogs. They are essential for helping people live their lives – dogs guide the blind, dogs hear for the deaf, dogs provide physical support to the unsteady, dogs provide emotional support for US Veterans and others with PTSD, dogs listen to kids practicing reading aloud. Also, Therapy Dogs comfort people, often the young, the elderly, and the dying in hospitals, nursing homes, and hospices. Search and rescue dogs help find the lost and save their lives. Police dogs risk their lives with their police partners.
  - All of these dogs really deserve every recognition and honor. Service/Assistance dogs can be any breed of dog or can be “All American” (mixed breed) dogs.
  - One advantage of naming Service/Assistance dogs as the Oregon State Dog would be that Oregon would have a State Dog and legislators can be done with the whole thing and go back to important work.

Thank you,  
Cherie Ball

--

Cherie Ball  
[jncball@gmail.com](mailto:jncball@gmail.com)