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"Just as animal shelters supply you with ***an array of breed choices***, they also offer you a chance to adopt a dog of any age, from puppies to senior pups."
Sara Borzatta, blogger, *Why You Need To Adopt A Shelter Dog Now*

House Rules Committee

Capitol Building
Salem, Oregon

Hello:

Some will wonder why the legislature is spending time on a **bill to officially designate "a state dog."**

Some will think it has as much importance, or rather unimportance, as a state rock, bird or flower.

BUT this specific designation is different . . . it is more **significant and important if the "shelter dog" is officially crowned** with this formal title . . . and this is why.

In this day and age, marketing and promotion is important in making things happen, in getting people to notice, in grabbing the spotlight and getting attention for whatever . . .

Making the shelter dog THE state dog, well, sends a message to everyone, that those elected by the people of Oregon care about dogs . . . and they care enough about any and every breed of dog, about shelter dogs, to spend time on designating them as such! And the media picks up on this, and there's your statement, and the beginning of your marketing and promotion!

Also, consider this information posted on the website of the **Oregon Humane Society . . .**

"OHS adopted 11,614 animals in 2016, with a 97% save rate. **Our adoption rate is consistently three to four times above the national average and is one of the highest in the nation.** The number of pets adopted in 2016 was just six pets shy of meeting the record set in 2015 (11,620)."

What's that mean? That **a lot of people in Oregon care a lot about dogs**, that **the state's voters care about shelter dogs**. If it makes sense for legislators to care about voters issues, then here's an obvious opportunity to make a lot of people – and dogs – happy! And legislators who pay attention to and act on what their constituents care about, well, in this case, it's a **win-win-win, for the voter, legislator, and each and every dog** whose life is changed forever . . . when adopted.



That's my case – and my own personal “talking points” – **asking each and every legislator to support, to vote yes, for *House Concurrent Resolution 16* to designate rescued shelter dogs as the official state dog.**

Thank you for your kind, compassionate, and thoughtful consideration in this regard.

Al LePage, a guy who recently rescued and adopted a sweet old dog

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Woof, Woof, Woof . . . “Missy” (That’s “thank you VERY much” in dog talk!)

