

My name is Mary Henry and I am a resident of NE Portland.

I know it's not the most weighty of measures, but designating the shelter dog as Oregon's state dog is important to me. Please vote yes for HB16.

Oregon has a proud and long history of valuing shelter pets. The Oregon Humane Society, where I work, is one of our state's oldest extant corporations. We were founded almost 150 years ago, when my hometown didn't have paved streets, and had less than 7,000 citizens. Oregon can be proud that in national studies, we are the very safest state in America to be a shelter pet. Private agencies like ours join with county animal services agencies to save virtually every homeless pet. Further, the Legislature's passage of strict animal protections is nationally recognized as among the best in the country.

Designating the shelter dog as our state dog would recognize Oregon's leadership and history, but more important, it would value thousands of Oregonians who share their homes with shelter pets. In Portland, more than 20,000 shelter pets find their forever homes every year, and the majority of voters share their lives with pets.

Please honor Oregonians' love of shelter pets by voting yes on HB16. Thank you!

Mary Henry
7214 NE 8th Ave
Portland, OR 97211