



*Bonnie L. Hays*

# SMALL ANIMAL SHELTER

*of*

WASHINGTON COUNTY

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RULES  
IN SUPPORT OF HCR 16**

Testimony of: Deborah Wood  
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I am Deborah Wood, manager of Animal Services for Washington County and the Bonnie Hays Animal Shelter in Hillsboro.

I am delighted to speak strongly in support of HCR 16.

As many of you may know, the Portland metropolitan area may be the safest place in America to be a homeless pet. Other communities in the state are nipping at our heels in that success rate.

In our shelter we take in every stray dog, cat, and other pet in Washington County. More than two-thirds of lost dogs will be returned to their worried owners, and the remaining dogs will receive first-rate veterinary care and behavior help from a

certified professional dog trainer and a small army of volunteers. Either through our own adoption program or through our nonprofit adoption partners, every single dog that is adoptable or can be made adoptable will find a loving home. While we deal with every stray dog in our county, local nonprofit agencies help us in our success, and also bring in animals from around the nation and give those dogs a second chance.

We are able to have this extraordinary success because of the support of our community, including our County government, financial donors, and thousands of volunteers. Most importantly, we have a community of kind-hearted people who are willing to adopt shelter dogs that may be old, may have ongoing medical needs, and may need patient guidance to overcome years of neglect and lack of socialization. Oregon is a place where dozens of people step up and adopt those dogs every day.

Designating rescued shelter dogs as the official dog of the State of Oregon would be an affirmation to the joy these second-chance dogs bring to our lives. It would be an acknowledgement of the truly extraordinary work that the staffs and volunteers in local shelters perform every day. Most importantly, it would be a salute to the generosity of heart for the adopters of shelter dogs.

I can only imagine how difficult this legislative session has been for every legislator. There are such hard decisions that all of you are making every day. This resolution is a chance to take a moment and celebrate the kindness and compassion of the people of our state.

Please vote yes on HCR 16 today.