



Date: May 22, 2017

To: **Senate Committee on Judiciary**
Senator Floyd Prozanski, Chair
Senator Kim Thatcher, Vice-Chair
Senator Michael Dembrow
Senator Dennis Linthicum
Senator James Manning Jr.

From: **Wendy Reimer**
Humane Investigator, Oregon Humane Society

Re: **House Bill 3283**

Established in 1868, the Oregon Humane Society is the state's largest and oldest animal welfare organization with over 50,000 supporters statewide. We are not affiliated with any local or national organization. **We are here today to ask for your support of HB 3283.**

As a Humane Investigator of the Oregon Humane Society, I help Oregonians take better care of their pets. When OHS receives reports about pets in poor living conditions, I respond to the residences and work with pet owners to improve the living conditions to meet the standards of minimum care as defined by the Oregon Legislature (ORS 167.310(9)). These standards are clearly stated, so I can tell pet owners exactly what they need to improve and how they can meet the standards. When I am out in the field, I provide Oregonians with free doghouses so they can provide pets with adequate shelter, free food so they can provide food of sufficient quantity and quality, and free carriers to transport their animals to a veterinarian for treatment of injuries or illnesses.

Over the past six years that I have been a Humane Investigator for OHS, I have encountered many parrots kept as pets. In my experience, Oregonians are not using the parrots for any commercial purposes, like other livestock such as pigs and cattle. Oregonians with parrots share a bond with their parrots that is similar to the bond pet owners share with dogs, cats, and other types of birds. Their parrots have names, and the parrot owners love to describe their quirky personalities. Parrots have very long lifespans and are very interactive, which explains why parrot owners grow very attached to their parrots over the many years they spend together.

There are certain minimum care standards defined in ORS 137.310 that apply specifically to domestic animals as defined by the Oregon Legislature (ORS 167.310(4)). Unfortunately, psittacines, a scientific classification for African parrots, falls under the definition of livestock (ORS 609.125) instead of domestic animals. The minimum standards of care for livestock are not as clearly defined in the Oregon Revised Statutes as the minimum standards of care for domestic pets.

If psittacines (not maintained or used commercially) are removed from the definition of livestock, I will be able to help parrot owners provide better care for their pets. **Please vote YES on HB 3283.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "W. Reimer".

Wendy Reimer
Humane Investigator, Oregon Humane Society
wendyr@oregonhumane.org
(503) 285-7722