



Senate Committee on Judiciary

**House Bill 2625 – Forfeiture
(Position: Support)**

May 22, 2017

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and Committee Members:

The Oregon Veterinary Medical Association supports House Bill 2625.

With regard to larger-scale animal neglect and cruelty cases, we believe that prosecutors should have discretion when considering charges – and this bill provides that allowance.

In reviewing HB 2625, we find that a forfeiture petition of impounded animals does not deny an owner of due process. A contested hearing and finding of probable cause by a judge is required before an animal is forfeited. In addition, the animal owner still has the opportunity to avoid forfeiture by paying a bond that would allow for the animal's care before trial.

We ask that you also support this legislation, and appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Glenn

Glenn M. Kolb
Executive Director
Oregon Veterinary Medical Association