

House Concurrent Resolution 34

Sponsored by Representative MALSTROM (at the request of Darin Campbell)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Honors Oregon's working dogs.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1
2 Whereas working dogs take on many jobs in Oregon, in every environment, yet for one
3 purpose—to help humans—and they do it without regard to the age, race, sexual orientation or faith
4 of the Oregonians they help; and

5 Whereas Toby was brought to Oregon as a second-chance rescue dog by the Oregon Humane
6 Society in 2012 at the age of five months and was adopted by Jennifer Campbell, who owned an older
7 psychiatric service dog, Baldur; and

8 Whereas Jennifer soon realized that Toby fit the criteria needed for an outstanding service dog
9 and Toby began training, passing his tests by the age of one and a half and becoming Jennifer's
10 full-time psychiatric service dog, allowing Jennifer to be active in society and go to doctor's ap-
11 pointments and the grocery store; and

12 Whereas in 2016 Toby died of an inoperable brain tumor, but for three years Toby changed the
13 life of a native Oregonian, doing his job to perfection; and

14 Whereas Jennifer has a new dog in training, a German Shepherd named Fergus, who also came
15 to her through the Oregon Humane Society's second chance program; and

16 Whereas Toby and Baldur both served in another way—and when he reaches the age of one
17 year and passes his blood test, so will Fergus—by taking part in the DoveLewis Blood Bank
18 “Superhero” donor program; and

19 Whereas Toby's donated and stored plasma saved the life of a Dachshund nearly six months af-
20 ter Toby had died, and, together, Toby and Baldur donated blood 19 times to save the lives of dogs
21 all across the country; and

22 Whereas many of the dogs in the “Superhero” blood donor program represent some type of
23 Oregon working dog, proving that they are service heroes twice over; and

24 Whereas the Yamhill County district attorney has a four-year-old Golden Retriever and yellow
25 Labrador Retriever mix named Marybeth, who is trained by the Canine Companions for Independ-
26 ence to serve as a therapy dog; and

27 Whereas Marybeth is made available in the courtroom to victims, usually sitting at their feet
28 while they recount the worst events of their lives; and

29 Whereas within Marybeth's first few days on the job, she was providing comfort to the family
30 of a murder victim during jury deliberations; and

31 Whereas Marybeth, also known as the courthouse dog, soothes the victims' stress and pain as
32 they tell their most tragic and terrifying stories, often in front of those who caused them harm; and

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 Whereas therapy dogs such as Marybeth make a difference in the lives of Oregonians by visiting
2 hospitals, eldercare facilities and schools; and

3 Whereas Yamhill County District Attorney Brad Berry has the honor of taking Marybeth home
4 every night, where she is spoiled with lots of treats; and

5 Whereas where there is sickness, pain and suffering, you can frequently find a therapy dog
6 working to make a healthier Oregonian; and

7 Whereas on April 16, 2014, Mick, a German Shepherd serving with the Portland Police Bureau,
8 was shot and killed during a burglary investigation in southwest Portland; and

9 Whereas Mick’s handler, Officer Jeffery Dorn, was wounded in the firefight that took Mick’s life;
10 and

11 Whereas police dogs serve with the highest risk of harm, and under the most dangerous situ-
12 ations, of any working dog; and

13 Whereas Mick was a tracking and capture dog, who on his 10th day on the force participated
14 in three calls that successfully captured the suspects, which would be considered a good day for any
15 officer; and

16 Whereas police departments often designate police dogs as officers, with their own badges, and
17 Mick was given the designation “K9-3”; and

18 Whereas Mick was honored in a memorial service so well attended that it had to be held at
19 Hillsboro Stadium; and

20 Whereas Officer Dorn claims that Mick saved his life on the day of the shooting, and he will
21 be forever thankful to his partner for his heroism; and

22 Whereas police dogs get drugs off our streets, protect officers, track and confront criminal sus-
23 pects and play an integral part in community relations within the communities they serve; and

24 Whereas the police dog saves lives and protects Oregonians, at great risk to itself, sometimes,
25 as in Mick’s case, paying the ultimate sacrifice; and

26 Whereas K9-3 out of service, gone but not forgotten; and

27 Whereas in December 2016, Hillside Elementary in Eagle Point welcomed a new “teacher’s
28 aide” named Dallas, a one-year-old terrier mix and trained therapy dog for students at the school;
29 and

30 Whereas Dallas came to the Southern Oregon Humane Society from California and caught the
31 eye of Dogs for the Deaf, a not-for-profit organization that places dogs with children in need of
32 therapy assistance; and

33 Whereas in addition to aiding deaf children, Dogs for the Deaf also trains dogs for children with
34 autism or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder; and

35 Whereas Dallas works at the school with his handler, teacher Sean Dugan-Strout, and assists
36 the fifth grade students as they study or do classwork; and

37 Whereas Dallas is trained to rest his head on students’ laps, to sense when students are upset
38 and comfort them or, if he senses that they are distracted, to give them a nudge; and

39 Whereas therapy dogs’ use in the classroom is on the rise and makes a significant difference in
40 the children’s advancement, breaking down barriers that stand in their path; and

41 Whereas Lila, a black Labrador Retriever, set the bar high amongst arson investigation dogs,
42 also called arson dogs, across the nation; and

43 Whereas Lila was the only arson dog on the west coast for many years, traveling from
44 Washington to California and providing support to fire bureaus all over Oregon; and

45 Whereas Lila and her handler, Lieutenant Fabian Jackson, worked for seven years with

1 Portland Fire and Rescue, as well as being a response team for the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms; and

2
3 Whereas Lila helped convict a Portland arsonist who had attempted to murder his girlfriend;
4 and

5 Whereas arson dogs are rare, and Lila and her handler have brought them much-needed attention by posing as the face of National Arson Awareness Week in 2015; and

6
7 Whereas Lila retired in 2015, but Zeus, who is the newest member of the Arson Squad, and Lieutenant Jackson are carrying on where Lila left off; and

8
9 Whereas arson dogs save thousands of investigative hours for humans; and

10 Whereas the team trains daily, and Zeus has his nose calibrated and tested monthly, to ensure reliable evidence for solid court cases; and

11
12 Whereas Jen Armbruster works at the Portland State University Campus Recreation Center as its Inclusive Recreation and Fitness Center Coordinator, working to ensure that there is a place for persons with disabilities; and

13
14 Whereas blind since the age of 17, Jen has had several service dogs to help guide her through the busy streets around the campus and the Portland public transportation system; and

15
16 Whereas Simon, a German Shepherd who came from the nonprofit organization The Seeing Eye, is her fourth Seeing Eye dog; and

17
18 Whereas Simon loves to work but when at home is happy to play; and

19
20 Whereas because Jen is a U.S. Paralympic Team athlete, Simon must be up to the task for her training schedule; and

21
22 Whereas it took the pair six months to become synchronized, but now they take their cues from one another, making a true partnership where both must do their part to succeed; and

23
24 Whereas in February 2017, Ava, a six-year-old German Shepherd, and her handler, Becky Irving of Mountain Wave Emergency Communications, responded to a report of a missing toddler in northeast Portland, and within minutes Ava found the boy, saving his life; and

25
26 Whereas Ava is certified in wilderness area search and human remains detection and worked in Oso, Washington, in 2014, with several other search and rescue teams to assist in the recovery efforts for victims of the landslide that buried a neighborhood and took the lives of 43 people, where the working dogs saved hundreds of search hours by directing recovery teams to the victims; and

27
28 Whereas working dogs are used in a successful training program at the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility in Wilsonville, where inmates train dogs to be later matched with a person in need; and

29
30 Whereas each dog trains with a different inmate one month at a time for 18 months to learn tasks, such as turning on and off lights and picking up items from the floor, before finishing their training at Canine Companions for Independence, the nonprofit organization that oversees the program; and

31
32 Whereas during its nine-year history, the “puppy program” has had an astonishing zero percent recidivism rate, showing a unique and effective cooperation between the public and nonprofit sectors to work together to improve the lives of all involved; and

33
34 Whereas Monty is one of Providence St. Vincent Medical Center’s 13 hospital therapy dogs; and

35
36 Whereas Monty spends his Mondays at St. Vincent’s, traveling from department to department and visiting those who need him the most—sick patients, their families and those who have recently lost loved ones—all who need a sturdy, patient and loving soul to lean on; and

37
38 Whereas Monty looks like a Golden Retriever, but to the patients and staff he is an angel who,

1 according to his owner and handler Pat Bukieda, has a knack for finding those who need him the
2 most and comforting them; and

3 Whereas Monty and the other hospital therapy dogs are a part of Pet Partners, a national pro-
4 gram that certifies therapy animals, after extensive training to ensure patient safety, to visit facili-
5 ties such as hospitals, nursing homes and rehabilitation facilities; and

6 Whereas Providence St. Vincent Medical Center first joined with the Pet Partners program in
7 1997, and over the years the teams of dogs and handlers have logged thousands of volunteer hours,
8 helping the sick feel better, even if for but a few moments; and

9 Whereas since the time domestication first began, a variety of animals have been used to help
10 humans—oxen to pull plows, horses to provide transportation and even elephants to work as heavy
11 equipment or to entertain; and

12 Whereas the difference between most animals and dogs is that dogs truly love to work and es-
13 pecially love to work for humankind; and

14 Whereas a dog will by instinct protect us and comfort us in times of stress; and

15 Whereas it is important to recognize the amazing benefits that we humans derive from Oregon’s
16 working dogs; and

17 Whereas there are psychiatric service dogs that help our veterans cope with life after battle,
18 dogs that children who have speech impediments and learning barriers can read to, dogs that can
19 sense bedbugs, water rescue dogs that save people from drowning, dogs that protect flocks from prey
20 in the absence of a shepherd, dogs that go to war with our troops to provide early enemy detection,
21 explosives detection and troop protection and dogs that can sniff out cancer or warn a person of
22 an imminent epileptic seizure; and

23 Whereas the services that Oregon’s working dogs can provide to the residents of this state are
24 boundless in their scope and value and are life changing to those they serve; and

25 Whereas these examples of working dogs and the organizations that train and supply them to
26 those in need are but a fraction of those who work every day to improve lives in Oregon and around
27 the world; now, therefore,

28 **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

29 That we, the members of the Seventy-ninth Legislative Assembly, recognize and honor the
30 tireless efforts of Oregon’s working dogs and the organizations that train and work side by side with
31 these extraordinary animals; and be it further

32 Resolved, That we encourage all Oregonians to express their thanks to one or more of these
33 organizations.

34