



**HUMANE | OREGON**

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Testimony of Humane Oregon on House Bill 4045 (2018)  
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

February 12, 2018

Chair Clem, Vice Chair McLain, Vice Chair Sprenger, and members of the Committee:

Humane Oregon was formed in 2014 to help advocate for humane treatment of animals in Oregon's political process and elections. We are a moderate but progressive animal welfare organization, with board members from many different parts of Oregon's animal welfare community. We are not affiliated with any other state or national organization.

Humane Oregon supports the general concept of House Bill 4045, which would prohibit a "retail pet store" in Oregon from selling dogs other than dogs obtained from shelters, rescues and the like.

On a national (and certainly international) basis, the number of shelter and rescue dogs vastly exceeds the number of homes available. According to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, approximately 6.5 million companion animals enter U.S. animal shelters every year (approximately 3.3 million dogs and 3.2 million cats) and approximately 1.5 million of those are euthanized (670,000 dogs and 860,000 cats). Requiring retail pet stores in Oregon to sell only shelter and rescue dogs would help reduce euthanasia of healthy, adoptable dogs. It would also help reduce demand for commercial breeding, which contributes to pet overpopulation and often leads to notoriously inhumane "puppy mills."<sup>1</sup>

We would welcome the chance to participate in further discussions on this issue, including any interim discussions if the bill does not move forward this year.

Thank you for considering our comments.

***Brian Posewitz***

Brian Posewitz

Board Member/Administrator

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<sup>1</sup> Our understanding is that Oregon's animal-loving culture has more demand for adoption than adoptable dogs. However, shelters and rescues in Oregon routinely import adoptable dogs from other states. Thus, pet stores here would have access to adoptable dogs and requiring them to sell only these dogs would still help reduce euthanasia and pet overpopulation.