

March 18, 2019

Chairman Jeff Barker
House Committee on Business and Labor
900 Court St NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: HB 2804 Support

Dear Chairman Barker and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2804, legislation that would stop the sale of puppies and kittens at pet stores.

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, (ASPCA) estimates that 6.5 million homeless pets enter shelters every year in the United States. Only about half, about 3.2 million, are adopted, leaving the rest to either languish in shelters dreaming of a home or to be euthanized. (See www.aspca.org/animal-homelessness/shelter-intake-and-surrender/pet-statistics.)

HB 2804 encourages and promotes finding homes for homeless pets. Not only does this make Oregon more humane and our quality of life higher, but it saves tax payer funds that each county must spend for Animal Control services.

Most pet stores in Oregon, from biggies like PetSmart to small boutique shops, offer adoptable pets within their stores to great success.

Kitty cat Colin Cookie Adams, the Earl of Upshaw, joined my family at PetSmart after voluntarily crawling into my pet carrier, wearing a tuxedo and long white gloves, anxious to go home with me. (See attached photo of The Earl.)

But pet shops that sell companion animals frequently obtain their animals from puppy or kitty mills, masquerading as “breeders”. These facilities often treat their animals inhumanely, providing continuous confinement of breeding animals, lack of sanitation, inbreeding and poor or nonexistent health care. Unfortunately, the mills receive lax oversight from the USDA.

It is time for Oregon to stop stores from selling pets raised in cruelty and to feature the many adoptable companion animals available from humane animal shelters or rescue organizations. Please stop this inhumane treatment of our best companions.

Respectfully,

Sue Adams
Portland, Oregon