



The Natural Alternative for Pet Foods & Supplies™

Dear Members of the Oregon Legislative Assembly,

We are Michael Carroll and Barb Cantonwine, partners in Healthy Pets Northwest in Portland, Oregon. We are writing to voice strong support for HB 2804 because we want to see puppy mill cruelty come to an end and this bill will help us get there.

Back when we opened in 2000, Healthy Pets Northwest was one of the first pet supply stores in the Portland area to focus on natural foods, supplements and products. We have since grown to include locations in Portland's Multnomah Village, Woodstock District and Hawthorne District, and have three Utah Affiliates. Between our stores we offer an abundance of retail pet supplies including locally produced products, many types of pet food, a variety of functional treats, hemp oil products, grooming supplies, cat scratch posts, bedding and toys. We also offer self-service dog washing at our Woodstock location, and other services like dog grooming and teeth cleaning without anesthesia through partnerships with other local businesses. All our products and services are geared toward helping four-legged family members live long, healthy lives.

One thing that we have never offered, and pledge to never offer, is puppies or other pets for sale. We believe pet supply stores have a responsibility to play a leadership role in the animal welfare community, making it irresponsible for us to sell puppies from backyard breeders and puppy mills. Furthermore, we disagree with the argument that small pet supply stores have to sell puppies to be financially viable. We feel that purchasing a puppy from a reputable breeder and providing proper nutrition, humane housing and appropriate medical care would cost more than we could reasonably charge for a healthy, well-socialized puppy.

Our company focuses on pet health and nutrition, so we see the real-life issues pets face as result of the sub-standard living conditions and poor breeding practices of puppy mills. And while there may be return policies at pet stores for "defective" pets, that does not address the physical and emotional toll placed on the pets and families that purchased them. Nor does it address the issue of what eventually happens to the pet.

Breeding dogs for profit is the ultimate betrayal of the trust that dogs have in us and there is no financial, and certainly no socially responsible, reason to do it. Please join Healthy Pets Northwest, and many other humane pet stores across the state, in supporting HB 2804.

Thank you,

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