

As a long time volunteer and a member of the Board of Directors of House of Dreams Cat Shelter, a 501(c)(3) non-profit located in N.E. Portland, I am writing in support of House Bill 2804.

House of Dreams is able to take in a number of cats from Multnomah County Animal Services during the course of the year. This helps relieve some of the crowding at MCAS, which is required to take most animals from the county that are turned in. House of Dreams is more accessible for many adopters than MCAS and we are successful in finding these cats their forever homes.

Animal shelters across the country are overwhelmed by the number of cats, dogs and rabbits turned in and, often, when these animals are not adopted after a certain period of time, many shelters feel it necessary to kill them. Thus, every year, thousands of cats, dogs and rabbits are put to death.

Each year, thousands of animals, especially dogs, are repeatedly bred to produce young animals for pet stores to sell. Mother animals are forced to carry litter after litter in a production line of babies. Frequently, these animals are inbred and carry genetic abnormalities as a result. These abnormalities can show up at birth and the baby is culled. Or they may manifest later in life and the family that has bought the animal finds that they have a beloved pet with painful, debilitating health issues. There is seldom a cure for these issues. The family is faced with either high vet bills and little relief for the pet's pain or having to euthanize a pet, who is a family member, in order to relieve it's suffering. It is a heart wrenching experience for all involved.

If retail pet stores in Oregon are prohibited from selling cats, dogs and rabbits acquired from sources other than animal shelters or rescue organizations, it will mean more adoptions of shelter animals and a diminishment, hopefully disappearance, of the wretched baby animal 'mills'.

I strongly support and urge passage of House Bill 2804. Please let Oregon take a lead in alleviating the suffering and death of so many innocent animals.

Deborah Morse  
volunteer at and  
president of House of Dreams Cat Shelter Board of Directors