

## Statement Regarding HB2804

From Rod Strand speaking for himself

My background includes working with dogs for nearly 50 years. I have owned, raised, bred, shown and judged Dalmatians over that time span and have served in organizations such as local dog clubs and the American Kennel Club and have served on the Citizen's Advisory Board for the Multnomah County Animal Control. I also have rescued dogs along the way in my association with dog activities. My dog breeding and husbandry efforts have contributed to my breed by genetic selection that has improved health, temperament and longevity.

The underlying point I would highlight is that 50 years ago we had a terrible stray dog, surplus dog, and euthanasia problem. 20,000 euthanasias per year were not unusual. Oregon resolved that over a period of years through public education and active rescue services, to the point now where rescue work is predominantly geared toward rescuing dogs from outside the state. It's likely that you will never be able to say that rescues are absolutely gone as an issue, but when you import dogs in the thousands from outside the state, it suggests several possible scenarios.

One is that the rescue efforts that were required to solve Oregon's problem caused a ramping-up of operations that were sufficient to solve the problem, but once the problem was effectively solved within the state, the capacity to rescue – grown and needed for the peak effort - became too great for local needs. We are now in a situation where the rescue mechanisms are too large for only in-state work; hence the growth into national and even international operations.

Another aspect of the rescue effort over the years relates to the actual problem-solving essentials that took place in Oregon. Education and culture change have taken us to a place where in-state problems are not nearly the problem that they were 40-50 years ago. People have learned to care for their dogs to a much greater degree than they did in the past. This raises the question of whether the importation of rescues is relieving pressure from areas that are progressing toward the kind of care that will eliminate the stray/surplus dog problem at their location or whether the importation is simply opening a spigot that will have no effect at all on the source conditions or worse yet, will serve to encourage "stray" or "rescue" supplies in areas that are exporting. Unfortunately, we have no Oregonian regulatory control or oversight capability over out of state or foreign supply sources.

The third concern is that the heightened capacity to rescue dogs that necessarily built up over the years has produced a puzzle of peak operation necessity to sustain employment. That is, once the local problem was effectively resolved, did the rescue operation entities have to look for something else to focus on in order to sustain employment and revenue levels? It looks like that may be a possibility, and if that is the impulse behind the current legislative proposal, it looks like a raw business move to elbow out the competition.

My view of the currently proposed law is that it is a knowing displacement of legitimate businesses by government fiat, propelled by questionable motives, riding on a wave of public emotion that was created in a good faith effort to resolve a problem, but an emotion that is currently unaccompanied by complete information. The effect of this bill, if enacted, is unfair, incompletely researched and ultimately will send the wrong message to the general public. Please consider the whole picture and vote no on this bill.