

Chairman Jeff Barker
House Committee on Business and Labor

Dear Chairman Barker and Members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments in support of HB 2804, legislation that would stop the sales of puppies and kittens at pet stores.

The humane values of Oregon cannot be represented by allowing the sale of dogs from puppy mills, and industry so intrinsically linked to unnecessary animal suffering.

Oregon customers should not be misled into supporting the cruel puppy mill industry and into buying sick and behaviorally challenged puppies.

HB 2804 is designed to require pet shops to adhere to a humane business model, not to put pet stores out of business. Moreover, they will also not affect responsible breeders. Responsible breeders understand better than anyone how horrible the pet shop and puppy mill industries are for dogs and consumers. Responsible breeders would never sell their puppies to pet shops because responsible breeders want to know where their puppies will end up.

Additionally, HB 2804 will lessen the burden on shelters that take in pet store dogs. Pet store dogs end up in shelters because they come with a wide range of behavioral problems—a result of a lack of necessary socialization.

I volunteering at the Clackamas shelter and see firsthand these dogs and how damaged they are. Their lack of socialization at early age and the medical issues they have as a result of being a puppy mill dog, makes it so hard for their owners to help them, that they end up being surrendered. These same dogs are usually euthanized because shelters don't have the resources to provide the lifelong care and rehabilitation they need. It is hard breaking to see them and not be able to help them. It makes it worst knowing that it was very preventable.

The owners of these dogs are usually heart broken and feel cheated.

What's more, the puppy-selling pet store model is outdated and socially unacceptable. The largest and most successful pet store chains in the country (PetSmart and PetCo) do not sell puppies, but instead partner with local shelters and rescues to hold adoption events at their stores. PetSmart claims that consumers who adopt a dog or cat at one of their events spend five times more than the average consumer at their store and often become loyal customers.

Please stand with multiple states and over 300 cities, towns, and counties across the nation that have enacted pet store laws prohibiting the sale of puppy mill puppies and kittens in pet stores.

Please take a stand and make Oregon a humane state, help local shelters find homes for their dogs and prevent more damaged puppies being born and sold to unsuspected customers/dog owners.

Thank you!

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