

March 20th, 2019

HB 2804

Name: Sandy McArthur, CVT

County; Yamhill

My name is Sandy McArthur, CVT. I am a Certified Veterinary Technician with 26 years experience working in both 2 different emergency hospitals and most of my experience is at family veterinary practices. I am also a breeder of Basenjis and I am a 25 year member of the Basenji Club of America and have served on BCOA's Health Committee for many years.

I request that you do not pass this bill. It does not serve it's intended purpose. The small percentage of sales of small animals in pet stores has little to no impact on homeless pets. In fact, the NAIA has compelling numbers as the SHORTAGE of pets in this country. Aside from a handful of the larger and more famous shelters, most local shelters have a shortage and are actually "purchasing" pets to "fill orders".

The real problem in the ever growing pet industry is the importation of pets from outside our area and worse, foreign countries. Until dogs were transported to Oregon, we RARELY saw heartworm disease, which is endemic to the south. As more and more dogs are sent here to "fill orders" at shelters, we are seeing parasites and virus here in Oregon that were quite rare (Lyme being another example). Now that people are bringing dogs in from other countries, we now have Canine Influenza Virus, which is a DIRECT result of dogs imported from Asia. This has caused significant deaths and hundreds of sick dogs, and how we are having to regularly vaccinate our local dogs against CIV. We need REGULATION of pet sales/adoption/importation. I personally know of an aviation company in McMinnville who has brought dogs in from Asia in their own aircraft and these dogs have NO health testing and were not brought in through USDA means. These dogs have DANGEROUS temperaments as they were unsocialized street dogs, and very territorial and dangerous to handle as a Veterinary Professional. One in particular has a disease process we were unable to diagnose and we have no idea of this dog is contagious. The poor sweet new owner spent thousands of dollars on her beloved pet trying to help him.

A recent international import from Egypt tested positive for RABIES! When dogs are exported to a foreign country (i.e. a family moving with their dog to another country or even Hawaii) must go through months of paperwork, veterinary exams, vaccinations and a Rabies titre. Yet we are ENCOURAGING the importation of street dogs with zero testing and vaccinations to be brought into this country with no quarantine requirements. THIS is the problem.

Lastly, the bill is worded dangerously. This bill will set up RESPONSIBLE PRESERVATION breeders who do perform all OFA genetic screening and produce high quality animals for show, field trial, hunting, family sports and QUALITY family pets to potentially be labeled as "retail sales" when most of us produce less than 1 litter a year. It can also lump other rescue groups into "retail" if there is any exchange of money for a pet. This HB simply does nothing to help our beloved pets and families looking for the right fit for their family, which may or may not be a dog purchased from a shelter. And yes I deliberately use the word PURCHASE. Shelter dogs are NOT socialized, have NO genetic screening, and little to no temperament testing. In my career, I CANNOT recall a dog referred to a Board Certified Veterinary Behaviorist that did not come from a shelter. I absolutely encourage people to purchase a shelter dog as every dog deserves a forever home. I also encourage OPTIONS for everyone. This bill will severely limit options for families looking for just the right pet.

Sincerely,

Sandy McArthur CVT