



Senate Bill 71 (Support)

House Committee on Business & Labor

April 12, 2019

Dear Chair Barker, Vice-Chair Barreto, Vice-Chair Bynum and Committee Members,

The Oregon Veterinary Medical Association supports Senate Bill 71, which allows shelters and animal control agencies to use sedatives and analgesic medications when euthanizing an animal.

The advantage of pre-euthanasia sedation is that it requires little restraint and is quickly administered under the skin. The rest of the procedure, including placement of the IV catheter, is done with the animal practically unconscious.

Circumstances when using sedation might be preferable include:

- When an animal is scared and experiences anxiety when approached. A fractious cat is a good example.
- When the dog or cat is in a lot of pain and positioning it for placement of the IV catheter will cause too much discomfort and pain.
- When the animal is severely dehydrated, emaciated or has poor circulation, all of which can make finding a vein for catheter placement difficult.
- When the animal is anxious and restless and unable to comfortably lie down.

Each animal is different. And each pet's needs are individual and should be assessed with regard to the need for pre-medications. What Senate Bill 71 does is provide humane shelters and animal control agencies an important option with regard to euthanasia – the same option that veterinarians in private practice have. Right now, this option doesn't exist.

We ask for your support of Senate Bill 71, and appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Glenn

Glenn M. Kolb
Executive Director