

House Concurrent Resolution 25

Sponsored by Representative SCHOUTEN (at the request of Darin Campbell for Working Dogs Oregon)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Honors Oregon's working dogs.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1
2 Whereas working dogs take on many jobs in Oregon, in every environment, yet for one
3 purpose—to help humans—and they do it without regard to the age, race, sexual orientation or faith
4 of the Oregonians they help; and

5 Whereas Toby was brought to Oregon as a second-chance rescue dog by the Oregon Humane
6 Society in 2012 at the age of five months and was adopted by Jennifer Campbell, who owned an older
7 psychiatric service dog, Baldur; and

8 Whereas Jennifer soon realized that Toby fit the criteria needed for an outstanding service dog
9 and Toby began training, passing his tests by the age of one and a half and becoming Jennifer's
10 full-time psychiatric service dog, allowing Jennifer to be active in society and go to doctor's ap-
11 pointments and the grocery store; and

12 Whereas in 2016 Toby died of an inoperable brain tumor, but for three years Toby changed the
13 life of a native Oregonian, doing his job to perfection; and

14 Whereas Jennifer has a new dog, a German Shepherd named Fergus, who also came to her
15 through the Oregon Humane Society's Second Chance Program; and

16 Whereas Toby and Baldur both served in another way—by taking part in the DoveLewis Blood
17 Bank "Superhero" donor program; and

18 Whereas Toby's donated and stored plasma saved the life of a Dachshund nearly six months af-
19 ter Toby had died, and, together, Toby and Baldur donated blood 19 times to save the lives of dogs
20 all across the country; and

21 Whereas many of the dogs in the "Superhero" blood donor program represent some type of
22 Oregon working dog, proving that they are service heroes twice over; and

23 Whereas the Yamhill County district attorney has a Golden Retriever and yellow Labrador
24 Retriever mix named Marybeth, who is trained by the Canine Companions for Independence to serve
25 as a therapy dog; and

26 Whereas Marybeth is made available in the courtroom to victims, usually sitting at their feet
27 while they recount the worst events of their lives; and

28 Whereas within Marybeth's first few days on the job, she was providing comfort to the family
29 of a murder victim during jury deliberations; and

30 Whereas Marybeth, also known as the courthouse dog, soothes the victims' stress and pain as
31 they tell their most tragic and terrifying stories, often in front of those who caused them harm; and

32 Whereas therapy dogs such as Marybeth make a difference in the lives of Oregonians by visiting

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 hospitals, eldercare facilities and schools; and

2 Whereas Yamhill County District Attorney Brad Berry has the honor of taking Marybeth home
3 every night, where she is spoiled with lots of treats; and

4 Whereas where there is sickness, pain and suffering, you can frequently find a therapy dog
5 working to make a healthier Oregonian; and

6 Whereas on April 16, 2014, Mick, a German Shepherd serving with the Portland Police Bureau,
7 was shot and killed during a burglary investigation in southwest Portland; and

8 Whereas Mick's handler, Officer Jeffrey Dorn, was wounded in the firefight that took Mick's life;
9 and

10 Whereas police dogs serve with the highest risk of harm, and under the most dangerous situ-
11 ations, of any working dog; and

12 Whereas Mick was a tracking and capture dog, who on his 10th day on the force participated
13 in three calls that successfully captured the suspects, which would be considered a good day for any
14 officer; and

15 Whereas police departments often designate police dogs as officers, with their own badges, and
16 Mick was given the designation "K9-3"; and

17 Whereas Mick was honored in a memorial service so well attended that it had to be held at
18 Hillsboro Stadium; and

19 Whereas Officer Dorn believes that Mick saved his life on the day of the shooting, and he will
20 be forever thankful to his partner for his heroism; and

21 Whereas police dogs get drugs off our streets, protect officers, track and confront criminal sus-
22 pects and play an integral part in community relations within the communities they serve; and

23 Whereas the police dog saves lives and protects Oregonians, at great risk to itself, sometimes,
24 as in Mick's case, paying the ultimate sacrifice; and

25 Whereas K9-3 is out of service, gone but not forgotten; and

26 Whereas in December 2016, Hillside Elementary in Eagle Point welcomed a new "teacher's
27 aide" named Dallas, a terrier mix and trained therapy dog for students at the school; and

28 Whereas Dallas came to the Southern Oregon Humane Society from California and caught the
29 eye of Dogs for Better Lives, a nonprofit organization that places dogs with children in need of
30 therapy assistance; and

31 Whereas in addition to aiding deaf children, Dogs for Better Lives also trains dogs for children
32 with autism or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder; and

33 Whereas Dallas works at the school with his handler, teacher Sean Dugan-Strout, and assists
34 the fifth grade students as they study or do classwork; and

35 Whereas Dallas is trained to rest his head on students' laps, to sense when students are upset
36 and comfort them or, if he senses that they are distracted, to give them a nudge; and

37 Whereas therapy dogs' use in the classroom is on the rise and makes a significant difference in
38 the children's advancement, breaking down barriers that stand in their path; and

39 Whereas Lila, a black Labrador Retriever, set the bar high amongst arson investigation dogs,
40 also called arson dogs, across the nation; and

41 Whereas Lila was the only arson dog on the west coast for many years, traveling from
42 Washington to California and providing support to fire bureaus all over Oregon; and

43 Whereas Lila and her handler, Lieutenant Fabian Jackson, worked for seven years with
44 Portland Fire and Rescue, as well as being a response team for the federal Bureau of Alcohol, To-
45 bacco, Firearms and Explosives; and

1 Whereas Lila helped convict a Portland arsonist who had attempted to murder his girlfriend;
2 and

3 Whereas arson dogs are rare, and Lila and her handler have brought them much-needed atten-
4 tion by posing as the face of National Arson Awareness Week in 2015; and

5 Whereas Lila retired in 2015, but Zeus, who is the newest member of the Arson Squad, and
6 Lieutenant Jackson are carrying on where Lila left off; and

7 Whereas arson dogs save thousands of investigative hours for humans; and

8 Whereas the team trains daily, and Zeus has his nose calibrated and tested monthly, to ensure
9 reliable evidence for solid court cases; and

10 Whereas Jen Armbruster works at the Portland State University Campus Recreation Center as
11 its Inclusive Recreation and Fitness Center Coordinator, working to ensure that there is a place for
12 persons with disabilities; and

13 Whereas blind since the age of 17, Jen has had several service dogs to help guide her through
14 the busy streets around the campus and the Portland public transportation system; and

15 Whereas Simon, a German Shepherd who came from the nonprofit organization The Seeing Eye,
16 is her fourth Seeing Eye dog; and

17 Whereas Simon loves to work but when at home is happy to play; and

18 Whereas because Jen is a U.S. Paralympic Team athlete, Simon must be up to the task for her
19 training schedule; and

20 Whereas it took the pair six months to become synchronized, but now they take their cues from
21 one another, making a true partnership where both must do their part to succeed; and

22 Whereas in February 2017, Ava, a German Shepherd, and her handler, Becky Irving of Mountain
23 Wave Emergency Communications, responded to a report of a missing toddler in northeast Portland,
24 and within minutes Ava found the boy, saving his life; and

25 Whereas Ava is certified in wilderness area search and human remains detection and worked
26 in Oso, Washington, in 2014, with several other search and rescue teams to assist in the recovery
27 efforts for victims of the landslide that buried a neighborhood and took the lives of 43 people, where
28 the working dogs saved hundreds of search hours by directing recovery teams to the victims; and

29 Whereas working dogs are used in a successful training program at the Coffee Creek
30 Correctional Facility in Wilsonville, where inmates train dogs to be later matched with a person in
31 need; and

32 Whereas each dog trains with a different inmate one month at a time for 18 months to learn
33 tasks, such as turning on and off lights and picking up items from the floor, before finishing their
34 training at Canine Companions for Independence, the nonprofit organization that oversees the pro-
35 gram; and

36 Whereas during its 11-year history, the “puppy program” has had an astonishing zero percent
37 recidivism rate, showing a unique and effective cooperation between the public and nonprofit sectors
38 to work together to improve the lives of all involved; and

39 Whereas Monty is one of Providence St. Vincent Medical Center’s 13 hospital therapy dogs; and

40 Whereas Monty spends his Mondays at St. Vincent’s, traveling from department to department
41 and visiting those who need him the most—sick patients, their families and those who have recently
42 lost loved ones—all who need a sturdy, patient and loving soul to lean on; and

43 Whereas Monty looks like a Golden Retriever, but to the patients and staff he is an angel who,
44 according to his owner and handler Pat Bukieda, has a knack for finding those who need him the
45 most and comforting them; and

1 Whereas Monty and the other hospital therapy dogs are a part of Pet Partners, a national pro-
2 gram that certifies therapy animals, after extensive training to ensure patient safety, to visit facili-
3 ties such as hospitals, nursing homes and rehabilitation facilities; and

4 Whereas Providence St. Vincent Medical Center first joined with the Pet Partners program in
5 1997, and over the years the teams of dogs and handlers have logged thousands of volunteer hours,
6 helping the sick feel better, even if for but a few moments; and

7 Whereas since the time domestication first began, a variety of animals have been used to help
8 humans—oxen to pull plows, horses to provide transportation and even elephants to work as heavy
9 equipment or to entertain; and

10 Whereas the difference between most animals and dogs is that dogs truly love to work and es-
11 pecially love to work for humankind; and

12 Whereas a dog will by instinct protect us and comfort us in times of stress; and

13 Whereas it is important to recognize the amazing benefits that we humans derive from Oregon’s
14 working dogs; and

15 Whereas there are psychiatric service dogs that help our veterans cope with life after battle,
16 dogs that children who have speech impediments and learning barriers can read to, dogs that can
17 sense bedbugs, water rescue dogs that save people from drowning, dogs that protect flocks from prey
18 in the absence of a shepherd, dogs that go to war with our troops to provide early enemy detection,
19 explosives detection and troop protection and dogs that can sniff out cancer or warn a person of
20 an imminent epileptic seizure; and

21 Whereas the services that Oregon’s working dogs can provide to the residents of this state are
22 boundless in their scope and value and are life changing to those they serve; and

23 Whereas these examples of working dogs and the organizations that train and supply them to
24 those in need are but a fraction of those who work every day to improve lives in Oregon and around
25 the world; now, therefore,

26 **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

27 That we, the members of the Eightieth Legislative Assembly, recognize and honor the tireless
28 efforts of Oregon’s working dogs and the organizations that train and work side by side with these
29 extraordinary animals; and be it further

30 Resolved, That we encourage all Oregonians to express their thanks to one or more of these
31 organizations.

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