



February 3, 2020

**Clackamas County Board of Commissioners  
Policy Position  
HB 4053: Related to Rabies Inoculations**

**Clackamas County supports HB 4053:** The Board of County Commissioners supports HB 4053, which removes the requirement of agencies to suspend or withhold issuing a dog license if their pet does not have a rabies inoculation.

HB 4053 removes an unnecessary barrier to dog licensing without compromising the original intent of the law requiring they receive and maintain current rabies inoculations. Both dog licensing and rabies inoculations are important for public health and safety. Removal of this barrier is likely to increase licensing, which will provide identification for more animals, making it easier to facilitate reunions when dogs are lost. Increasing licensing of dogs also will provide valuable data for public health officials to have more accurate accounting of dogs in our region. One additional benefit is the potential increase in revenue, which will help with staffing of dog facilities that serve these animals and the general public. Should this legislation become law, it will still require compliance with rabies inoculations, while at the same time providing additional flexibility that could lead to increased pet licensure.

Clackamas County Dog Services provides dog sheltering, education, complaint resolution, licensing, protection, and enforcement services to the public so they can reunite with lost dogs, benefit from the companionship of a well-matched adoption or placement, and experience a healthy, safe and livable community. Dog licensing supports all aspects of the dog services program by helping us provide for nearly 1,000 dogs in our shelter each year and respond to over 1,500 requests for service for our officers. With over 23,000 active dog licenses, we anticipate that this number would initially increase by 12% followed by additional increases after education and compliance efforts.

We urge a “YES” vote for HB 4053.

Please contact Chris Lyons at [clyons@clackamas.us](mailto:clyons@clackamas.us) for more information.