

OREGON AGILITY AND DOG TRAINING FOLKS (trainers and those who train here, too):

We need some help to get an IMPORTANT bill passed in the Oregon Legislature and need some letter writing action IMMEDIATELY - before this WEDNESDAY, May 5th.

While it's true that the bill passed in 2013 allows dog training to take place in existing agricultural buildings within the state of Oregon with certain limits (10 dogs per class, no more than 6 dogs each and 4 testing trials per year), this bill does not exempt you from individual county restrictions, nor does it currently make you exempt from commercial building code. So if the county decides to follow the letter of the law, you would have to upgrade your agricultural building to meet the building code instead of being exempt. HORSE ARENA'S are exempt!

The law currently being run through the legislature would make the SAME exemption that horse arena's have in ag buildings apply to dog training, too. TECHNICALLY as the law stands now, ANY arenas on EFU zoned land in Oregon (in ANY county) could be subject to this requirement. So, imagine that a neighbor complains and the county reviews your land use. If they catch on to this, your use of your arena could be shut down until you upgrade to commercial building code. This could be HUNDREDS of thousands of dollars.

WE NEED SUPPORT LETTERS TO GO INTO THE STATE IN SUPPORT OF HB2645. The hearing at the committee level takes place on Wednesday. Please write in here: <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2021R1/Testimony/SNRWR>

And pick the options in this photo for submitting it to the committee.

Here are some talking points that you can use, but re-word them so they fit your voice and be sure to add your enthusiasm that the building USE is the same as what equestrians use their buildings for, we just happen to be using a different 4 legged species for our sport:

Regarding HB 2645:

This bill treats dog training facilities the same as horse training facilities for purposes of the building code only – not land use law.

Section 1 adds a definition of “dog training facility” to ORS 455.315.

This statute contains an exemption from the state commercial building code for buildings used as “equine training facilities.” The exemption only applies if the farm building is:

- A. Located on a farm;
- B. Occupied by 10 or fewer people at all times;
- C. Not a building regulated by the State Fire Marshal; and
- D. Not within a floodplain.

If all of these criteria are met, then a farm building used to train horses is not subject to the commercial building code. If the farm is within an incorporated city, which is unlikely, the city can disregard the statute and apply building code regulations.

Unfortunately, the statutory exemption applies specifically to “equines”, not dogs. Consequently, a farm building used by a farmer to train horses is exempt, but the same building used in the exact same manner by the exact same people at the exact same time to train dogs is not exempt. As long as all of the other sideboards remain the same for horses and dogs, so that one type of training is not favored over the other, there is no reason to hold dog trainers to a different standard than horse trainers for purposes of the commercial building code. Section 1 of this bill fixes that, so that dog training facilities are treated the same as horse training facilities for building code purposes. It does nothing more.

Sincerely,  
Melissa Hamilton