



# HUMANE VOTERS | OREGON

Testimony of Humane Voters Oregon on HB 2733  
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

February 11, 2021

Chair Witt, Vice Chairs Breese-Iverson and Hudson, and Members of the Committee:

Humane Voters Oregon is a nonprofit organization that works in Oregon's political process and elections to promote humane treatment of animals. We are not affiliated with any other state or national organization.

**Humane Voters Oregon supports House Bill 2733, provided it can be shown not to reduce the rate of rabies inoculation.**

By allowing counties to license dogs without requiring *immediate* proof of rabies inoculation, HB 2733 will increase the percentage of dog owners who license their dogs. That would be good for both people and animal welfare for at least two reasons. First, it would make it easier for county animal control agencies to reunite lost dogs with their owners. Second, because counties charge a fee for licensing a dog, it would increase funding to county animal control agencies, which provide important animal welfare services including shelter services.

HB 2733 would not affect the requirement that dogs have rabies inoculations. It would only give counties more flexibility in enforcing that requirement when they license dogs. Proof of inoculation would still be required within 60 days of licensing.

Requiring proof of inoculation before issuing a license, which is the current law, would make sense if licensing laws were easier to enforce. However, according to county animal control agencies, many people elect to simply not license their dog, with little threat of sanction.

HB 2733 should not result in a decrease in the rate of rabies inoculation and could increase it. Under the current system, anyone inclined to not inoculate their dog could simply avoid the licensing system altogether. By making licensing easier, more dogs will be "in the system" such that rabies inoculation can be ensured.

In response to concerns from the Oregon Veterinary Medical Association, proponents of the bill should be required to demonstrate that, in fact, it would not reduce the rate of rabies inoculation. We also support other efforts, as suggested by the OVMA, to make pet licensing easier.

Thank you for considering our comments.

***Brian Posewitz***

Brian Posewitz

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