

Submitter: Michelle Blake
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HCR8

Dear Chair Fahey and members of the Committee:

As a former shelter employee, former shelter board president, and a lifelong adopter of shelter animals, I wholeheartedly support the proposal to designate rescued shelter dogs and cats as the official state pet. It would be a fabulous idea at any time, but it's especially timely now, as every shelter and rescue is full. This unprecedented demand on shelters and rescues is attributed to post-pandemic effects, and these organizations----most of them private nonprofits who must work every day to raise the donations that keep the lights on and the food bowls filled----are shouldering the burden of this public problem. Let's show our support for their lifesaving work and make a bold expression of our state's love of dogs and cats.

Oregon is known as a pet-friendly state and has been a consistent leader in innovative programs that provide spay and neuter services, help keep pets with their families, and minimize or eliminate shelter euthanasia. I hope HCR 8 will be adopted as a way of expressing our shared values and appreciation for the spirit of compassion that infuses the work of shelters and rescues.

Thank you for your consideration,
Michelle Blake
Salem