

OREGON HUMANE SOCIETY

Date: February 10, 2023

To: House Committee Business and Labor

Representative Paul Holvey, Chair
Representative Lucetta Elmer, Vice-Chair
Representative Nathan Sosa, Vice-Chair
Representative Shelly Boshard Davis
Representative Dacia Grayber
Representative Zach Hudson
Representative Travis Nelson
Representative Rob Nosse
Representative Virgle Osborne
Representative Mark Owens
Representative Anna Scharf

From: Sharon Harmon, President & CEO, Oregon Humane Society

RE: House Bill 2915

Established in 1868, the Oregon Humane Society is Oregon's largest and oldest animal welfare organization with over 50,000 supporters statewide. We are not affiliated with any local or national organization. **Today, we ask for your support of HB 2915**, a bill that would ensure that no additional pet stores can sell puppies or kittens in our state.

Oregon Humane Society is the largest animal welfare organization in the Northwest, with campuses in Salem and Portland, including a new Community Veterinary Hospital. OHS offers a wide variety of services from pet adoption, training, humane law enforcement, veterinary care, humane education, and disaster response. For many years, Oregon has had a small puppy-selling pet store industry. Most stores focus on products and services and most host adoption events. And, most Oregonians obtain their pets from the many local shelters, rescues, or small, local breeders that treat their dogs like we all treat our pets and only place directly with the public. Although, our state doesn't need puppy-selling pet stores to fill any demand for pets, I am very concerned that Oregon will see an influx of puppy-selling pet stores from other states that are looking for a safe haven, especially on the West Coast, since California and Washington have closed their markets to puppy-selling pet stores.

Oregon has been on the forefront of so many humane issues in large part thanks to the Oregon Legislature, even just recently with the passage of HJR 12 in the Oregon House, celebrating the rescue shelter pet as our state's official state pet. HB 2915 provides Oregon with an important moment and opportunity to further ensure we do our part to close down the puppy mill to pet store pipeline and that also closes the gap in Oregon's puppy mill law by prohibiting further pet stores from selling puppies and kittens in Oregon.

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Be more humane.

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HB 2915 supports shelters and rescues across our state that are at capacity with dogs and cats in search of their forever homes AND the overwhelming majority of pet stores that already adhere to a humane business model. By allowing pet stores to open and potentially import hundreds of puppies from out-of-state mills would certainly exacerbate a problem for our rescues and shelters across Oregon.

HB 2915 is a compromise; it is commonsense; and it aligns with Oregon's humane pet loving values.

Please vote 'yes' on HB 2915.

For the animals,



Sharon Harmon, CAWA
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