

Submitter: Dana Entler

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor

Measure: HB2915

I've been an animal protection activist for most of my life. Years ago, I often demonstrated against the sale of purpose-bred puppies and kittens at pet stores. My sign read "Companions Not Commodities." I stand by it still and hope this bill will finally put an end to the issue in Oregon.

No living creature should be packaged and marketed like the latest gadget. No living creature should be an impulse buy: an ill-considered and emotional decision to take on the lifetime responsibility of providing them with love and competent care. Pet stores deal in those impulses. They deal in animal suffering.

Please pass this bill. I'm old enough and open-eyed enough to doubt I'll live to see the end of live animal sales from pet stores. To see the end of puppy and kitten sales is a wonderful start.

A caveat though--

Some have suggested we replace these sales with adoptions from rescue organizations/shelters. I disagree--until there's serious regulation of the practice. There are too many so-called "adoptions" by rescue groups who set up in stores like PetCo and PetSmart. They're little more than sales events. Not all are bad, but we need regulation and enforcement to protect animals from unscrupulous groups. I know from experience. A group called "All Terrier Rescue" was allowed to continue at PetSmart despite numerous complaints of sick animals and financial fraud. It took a Justice Dept. investigation to end it. PetSmart didn't care--the animals brought in customers.

Let's create a better way to get dogs and cats into lifetime homes. Let's end the sales of dogs and cats from retail stores. Yes on HB 2915.

Thank you,  
Dana S. Entler