

Submitter: Sara Grusing

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor

Measure: HB2915

This makes a lot of sense. People who I talk to who have bought from a breeder, either at a store or not, usually seem oblivious to the fact that there are many pets already available in Oregon's shelters. This should help to reinforce norms of looking for a pet in a shelter before buying one in a retail environment. From my many years of volunteering at the Oregon Humane Society, I know that the animals that come from there are very well cared for and seem to me to be less likely to have health issues than animals that come from breeders. The people who work and volunteer at shelters are knowledgeable and truly care for the animals, while I know less about people who are selling pet supplies for profit. They even provide training, and additional medical services at reduced rates, and lots of advice. It is not depressing to go to the Oregon Humane Society, as I know some people probably think. I can't say much about the other shelters in Oregon, other than that the better funded and well used they are, the more likely they are to be able to follow that example. It's also better for the community because there are many strays after the pandemic who need homes. The more we support the shelters and help them get animals adopted, the easier it will be for people to surrender animals they can no longer care for because of the death of a loved one, or because someone abandoned an animal or many animals in their neighborhood. This equates to less human and animal suffering, and a safer, cleaner, quieter neighborhood.