



March 15, 2023

Joint Committee on Ways & Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources: House Bill 5002

Dear Co-Chair Dembrow, Co-Chair Pham, and Committee Members:

In 2019, the legislature passed Senate Bill 883 and reassigned the responsibility of regulating Animal Rescue Entities (ARE) from counties to the State Veterinarian's Office at the Oregon Department of Agriculture. The Oregon Veterinary Medical Association, along with the Oregon Humane Society, supported this important change to ensure all AREs across the state comply with the same record keeping and licensing requirements.

We now are asking for your support by ensuring this existing program's funding is appropriated within the General Fund. This stable source of funding is good for all Oregonians, as it will help this important program continue to:

- Better ensure that animals coming into Oregon arrive with a Health Certificate, and, to the best of our knowledge, are healthy. We need to know this and to have the ability to trace back, if necessary, where these animals originate from.
- Better protect the public who has an interest and desire to adopt or purchase animals from the AREs (humane shelters, rescue groups, etc.) that are bringing these animals into Oregon. If unhealthy animals are adopted or sold, that new owner will incur unexpected health care costs.
- Better protect public health. As the COVID-19 pandemic has shown us, animal health and human health are connected. We have a responsibility to all Oregonians to ensure as best we can that animals entering our state don't have zoonotic illnesses or diseases that can be transmissible to people or are treated and cared for upon their arrival.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Gail

Gail Schroder, DVM, President
Oregon Veterinary Medical Association

