



## Board of Directors

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April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Attn: Oregon Senate Committee on Judiciary

Subject: Proposed HB 2915

Position: Support

From: Chelsey Marks, Executive Director of at Salem Friends of Felines, Keizer, Oregon

Please accept this written testimony in support of HB 2915, a bill that would prohibit future retail pet stores from selling or offering to sell dogs and cats in Oregon.

Salem Friends of Felines is Salem/Keizer's largest feline rescue organization and Community Spay & Neuter Clinic. Since our inception in 2004, SFOF has successfully adopted over 18,000 rescued cats and kittens into loving, permanent homes. Our mission as an organization is to spread awareness of the plight of homeless cats and kittens through education, spay and neuter services and by providing rescue and adoption services for those cats and kittens in need.

Our current humane business model allows us to partner with local pet stores such as South Salem Pet Supply to house and feature our adoptable rescued cats and kittens in their store. Through collaboration with other local pet stores and feed stores, we host adoption events on-site and find even more homes for our rescues.

HB 2915 in no way will cause harm to reputable breeders of cats or dogs. The vast majority of those reputable breeders already have interested parties, have taken deposits and have waitlists for their animals prior to the litter being born and would never consider selling any of their litters to a pet store.

Oregon has no shortage of rescued animals that need homes, we don't need to continue the puppy-mill-to-pet-store pipeline that we have already allowed to go on for too long. Puppy mill and kitten mill operators must stop being rewarded and funded by pet stores willing to sell these often unhealthy animals to the public. The general public is not fully aware of the horrible conditions many of their pet store purchased pets are born into and live in for months before being sold to a pet store.

As Executive Director and a Certified Veterinary Technician at Salem Friends of Felines I have adopted the highest standards of care within our facility, as written by The Association of Shelter Veterinarians' (ASV) Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters as well as the 5 Freedoms as adopted by the American Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA).

I can speak from personal experience as “boots on the ground” for over 20 years in Salem-Keizer as an animal rescuer and veterinary professional, that not one of the puppy and kitten mills adhere to these standards of care!

Thank you for your time and dedication to ending animal cruelty in Oregon.



Chelsey Marks, CVT  
Executive Director  
Salem Friends of Felines  
503-362-5611

## Five Freedoms



### 1. Freedom from hunger and thirst

by ready access to fresh water and diet to maintain health and vigor

### 2. Freedom from discomfort

by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area

### 3. Freedom from pain, injury or disease

by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment

### 4. Freedom to express normal behavior

by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind

### 5. Freedom from fear and distress

by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering

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