

OREGON HUMANE SOCIETY

Date: January 19, 2023

To: **House Committee On Rules**
Representative Julie Fahey, Chair
Representative Vikki Breese-Iverson, Vice-Chair
Representative Jason Kropf, Vice-Chair
Representative Rob Nosse
Representative Anna Scharf
Representative Andrea Valderrama
Representative Kim Wallan

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

RE: House Concurrent Resolution 8

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 HCR 8, a bill that would establish rescued shelter dogs and cats as the official pet of the State of Oregon.

When a young dog named Rocky arrived at our Salem shelter, he was timid and unsure of himself. Over the course of several months, volunteers and staff helped him find his courage, and ultimately, a loving home. His new family continued to help Rocky overcome his fears, and with his new sense of confidence and his supportive family in tow, Rocky overcame more than anyone could have dreamed during a trip to the Oregon coast. When Rocky spotted a little girl in danger, his fear of water didn't hold him back. In a moment, he raced into the waves to pull the toddler ashore — saving her life.

Oregonians care about animals. Rocky is a true hero, and for the people who adopt them, every shelter animal who is adopted becomes the hero of their story. According to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), nearly sixty percent of households in Oregon have a pet, and Oregonians adopt more than 18,000 cats and dogs from shelters every year. Shelter pets embody the rugged perseverance and strength that represents Oregon's history and are valued across the state today. Each adopted pet's story is a story of hope and optimism, a story of finding a home, and a story of love and connection.



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By declaring rescued shelter dogs and cats as the official pet of the State of Oregon, the Oregon Legislature will be choosing a symbol that represents the diversity and resilience of the people of Oregon.

Please vote 'yes' on HCR 8.

Sincerely,



Sharon Harmon, CAWA
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