

Hello,

We have testimony in support of making shelter dogs and cats our State Pets. I was given this link to send our letters to you.

Thanks so much for your help in getting these to the right person.

Sincerely,  
Shannon Jones  
6th Grade Teacher  
Quatama Elementary School  
Hillsboro OR 97124  
503-707-4672

Dear Senator Sollman,

This letter is addressing your bill towards designating sheltered cats & dogs as the official state pet. Reasons I believe this bill should pass are: We can spread awareness about their struggles, to help them get adopted, & to keep them out of kill shelters.

First, I will discuss the struggles that sheltered dogs and cats go through. Statistics from the ASPCA say about 3.2 million cats and 3.3 million dogs are in the shelter system every year. According to a pet insurance & foundation "healthypaws", they say dogs adopted from shelters will most likely experience emotional issues from trauma and/or abandonment. If we make these sheltered feline friends as the state pet, we can recognize their struggle against the world.

Next, I will talk about helping them get adopted. ASPCA says 710,000 dogs and 100,000 cats are returned to their owners when they enter shelters as strays. "The Zebra" states 6.5 million dogs, cats, and other pets are lost, abandoned, etc, and enter shelters. Out of those animals, barely half are adopted, and some even return to shelters again. Changing the state pet to sheltered dogs and cats is, and will be, a humongous change to the lives of these pets! Awareness will be spread, and adoption will hopefully be imminent.

Finally, I shall talk about a gruesome topic next: kill shelters. Kill shelters are places where dogs, cats, and such pets are euthanized. In 2021, according to "Best Friends Animal Society", 625 dogs and cats were killed in animal shelters around Oregon. "American Humane" says 56% of dogs and 71% of cats are euthanized when they enter animal shelters. We can make these poor pets their day, or potentially, their life if we can get the shelter dogs and cats the state animal. These animal's lives are in our hands.

In conclusion, I explained today about reasons why we should designate sheltered dogs and cats as the state pet. They were: to spread attention on their struggles, to get them out of shelters and adopted, and so they can get out of kill shelters. These sheltered dogs and cats could be the state pet, but they are instead fighting for their life.

Sincerely,



Jaeden Montefalcon,  
6th Grader  
Quatama Elementary School  
Mrs. Jones' Class

January 19 2023

Dear Senator Sollman,

2.7 million. That is the number of dogs and cats that die per year. This can change, but only with your help. I think you should support this bill for the following reasons, to keep them out of kill shelters, to get them into safe homes, and to get better funding for shelters. Life is hard for them, and by not doing anything it becomes harder. You and only you can change this. Be a difference. Or you can choose not to and in doing so condone murder from quantity, starvation from underfunding, and abuse from dangerous environments and caretakers.

Think to yourself is it their fault that no one ever cared for them and that they're dropping like flies, due to killing shelters? No. If you do not support this bill it will be your fault. You will have dog's and cat's blood on your hands. If you do not support this bill you are responsible for the murder of too many animals. You may not be the reason a shelter decides to kill off animals that do not get adopted, but you will be saying it's okay to give up and kill helpless animals. Close your eyes and imagine a dog or cat you have had for three years, but had to give up. You go to the shelter to get him back now you can care for them. When you get there they explain after a year they killed your pet. How would you feel?

I understand that you may not be a pet person but I am hoping your heart is not too black to save millions of innocent lives that did not ask for their fate. Pets being abused is just wrong. You can never know as a shelter if the person taking home a dog has ulterior motives, such as using it as a punching bag or harming it for fun. Some people suffer when they think about these animals being treated cruelly. I hope that we, the people, did not make a mistake electing you and that you will do what you promised and listen to your people. Then again maybe your fame made you shallow and hypocritical of course I hope for the animals' sake my theory is wrong. If I am wrong you will support this bill.

After our family dog Romeo had to be put down, we decided to get another one. When we got to the shelter we found a dog and we decided to get him because he loved playing with my brother and me. The shelter was underfunded and he was so skinny you could see his ribs. We took him in, fed him, and later found out he had a cancerous tumor. We quickly got it removed and he is still alive. If we did not adopt him he would have died. That is how he is lucky. But some animals were not as lucky, some animals ARE not as lucky. Too many are not lucky enough to live more than one year. 2.7 million animals die per year. Part of this data is because of underfunded shelters. Shelters that are trying to help not make money. Shelters that are part of the solution, not the problem deserve funding. Help people that are trying their best. If this was true of humans would you act then? Why not act now? With your help, this data can change, so I am begging you please, please, please have mercy on the animals.

Sincerely,



Anna Gesicki

6th grade

Mrs. Jones's class

Quatama Elementary school

January 19, 2023

Dear Senator Sollman,

My name is Myra and I think it is important to bring attention to animals in shelters and I want to help. I want to support your motion to make shelter animals our State Pets! I believe this is important because it can help get them into a safe home, help them get adopted, and keep them away from dangerous places.

I think this motion to make shelter animals our State Pet will help more of them get adopted and into safe homes. This will happen because you are showing that animals are in danger and need our help to get them into a good place to live and not in a bad place where they could get hurt.

Thank you for the help to keep the animals safe and in good homes with a family that will take care of them and love them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mayra Cazres Flores". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mayra Cazres Flores

6th Grader

Quatama Elementary School

Mrs. Jones' Class

Reina Knickerbocker  
Quatama Elementary School  
6095 NE Campus Way  
Hillsboro, Oregon 97124

Senator Janeen Sollman  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Sollman,

I, a sixth grader at Quatama Elementary, am writing this because I believe that the bill to shelter cats and dogs as our state animal should be passed. I hope this will help, because at their current state, I think that they need help from us.

Many cats and dogs spend their lives suffering. Even if we cannot reverse that, we should bring attention to their suffering so they can be adopted into a better home. We have kept cats and dogs as pets for thousands of years, and by now we should be treating them correctly. They help us mentally and physically. I think that they are important to our health, and we should in return help them. Even if we haven't all been good to them, it's not too late to begin.

Sometimes, animals are killed in shelters or even in their owner's home. Occasionally, animals need to be put down, and I understand that. However, not all the time it is because of that. Sometimes, people neglect their pets, whether by accident or purpose. Some people don't know how to take care of them, but that's not a good reason. People should study them before adopting them. When people realize they cannot take care of their pets, some throw them out. This can seriously hurt and traumatize them.

We need to bring attention to the cats and dogs. If they are chosen as the state pet, then they should be treated much better. Perhaps if they are chosen then they will be seen with awe, similarly to the bald eagle. Then, people will think about them and adopt them more often. They will be respected, and the shelters protecting them will be funded with grants, giving the animals a better life.

Because of all of these reasons (and more, from my personal experience with my cats) I think that the bill to shelter them as the state pet should be passed. Thank you for reading my letter, and I hope it helps.

-Reina Knickerbocker

Reina Knickerbocker

Dear Senator Sollman,

I'm a 6th grader at Quatama Elementary school and I would like to talk about a very concerning matter. So many animals in the world have unhappy lives and an uncountable amount of animals are killed every year. Everyday the number of animals living on the streets is increasing. If we get them into safe homes, bring attention to their struggles, and keep them out of kill shelters that number will decrease and they will have better lives.

Lots of animals get abused by their owners or thrown out into the unknown wild. If they can manage to be with better owners, while in safe homes, it would be better for them. I have five cats and all of them were found out in the wild when they were kittens. One was even found in a Target parking lot where there are a lot of cars that could easily run over a tiny, defenseless kitten. I want to make sure that a lot of animals don't have to face situations where they're in danger and alone in a gigantic, strange world. If we get them into safe homes where good owners will feed them and treat them well then there will be less skinny animals starving outside and more healthy ones. If someone sees an animal on the road then they should either take the animal home, ask if anyone lost a pet, or drop them off at a shelter they know is safe. If you search up abused animals and animals on the street, you will probably find a lot of sad pictures and videos. By doing this, we can save more animals instead of neglecting them.

Lots of stores have a little box to put money inside to go to a specific shelter. This is one way to bring attention to animals who are struggling. Some other ways are charity and funding which the money from goes to a shelter to help the animals in it. You could also hold some sort of party or a protest about animals to bring attention to them. Bringing attention to animals is really important because then more people will start realizing what a predicament they're in. Having more people realize and start taking action is important because one person can't be very helpful but when you have a lot of people then there's teamwork and it's easier to help other people know about animal's problems. There have been so many famous people who started out alone to reach their goal but other people started following them because they thought it was a great idea. Animals have many needs even if we don't realize it and by letting people know about them then the animals will be safe and happy.

If animals are out on the streets there is a chance of them being caught and taken to kill shelters. In kill shelters, there become too many animals living there so the shelter has to put them to sleep forever. One website, [kqed.org](http://kqed.org) says that "Every year, about 6.5 million dogs and cats enter U.S. shelters. Of those 6.5 million, 1.5 million are euthanized.". That's not even including the other animals that live in the shelters!

Some animals are kicked out which can lead to being in a kill shelter where the conditions aren't good and the animals are in danger of being killed every second because there's so many animals in the shelter. We can keep them out of kill shelters by adopting them or giving them to a person you know is kind. By doing this we can reduce the amount of animals killed every year.

In conclusion lots of animals are in danger every moment of their lives. We should make shelter cats and dogs the state pet because of this. If we do then they will be more respected. We should always protect animals. This is very important.

Sincerely,  
Tsomo Dorjee  
Student from Quatama Elementary

Tsomo Dorjee

Dear Senator Sollman,

January 19th, 2023

I am writing a letter about abandoned animals. Please provide shelter and food for cats and dogs when cats and dogs get hunted in the streets we need to provide medical help. Help them get adopted, get them into Safe homes, keep them out of killing shelters and bring attention to the need to fund shelters with grants to support the cats and dogs. If they are designated as the state pet they will be more respected.

Kato Martin

Kato Martin



Dear Senator,

January 20, 2023

I'm Melia Larry . I'm in the 6th grade and I go to Quatama Elementary School. I'm gonna tell you why you should make shelter dogs and cats the official state pet. How much do you care about these animals?

The first reason is that I think it would earn them more respect. If they are more respected it would make it easier for people to find more interest in the pets. The more people that get pets, the more pets will have safe homes.

The cats and dogs also really need a safe caring home to stay safe in. They need homes that have responsible people that will take care of them and won't neglect them. I bet that the new owners would feel good knowing they just gave them a safe home, especially the animal lovers out there.

The last reason is because we need to keep them out of kill shelters. Once again it could make the new owners feel better. The more they get killed the less animals there are. Also when animal shelters get too crowded they kill many of them for more room.

In conclusion, they would get more respect, find a safe home, and not get killed! If we help these pets it won't only make the new owners feel good but it will make everybody feel good. Thank you for taking your time to listen.

Sincerely,

Melia Larry

Dear Senator Sollman,

I have found interest in your bill to make shelter animals represented as a state pet. I think this is a great idea considering there is an atrocious amount of animals that are homeless, or in an unsafe living space. This has come to mind, and I would like to help change that. Dogs and Cats are also in a dangerous situation when they are put in places such as puppy and cat mills, kill shelters, and the pound. For example, with puppy and cat mills they tend to have horrible health conditions that they don't get treated for. Puppy and cat mills are also often known as breeding locations for animals in tight conditions. Animals also often get put in kill shelters where they are sent to get killed off because of lack of space in shelters. If they get nominated as a state pet, they will finally get the respect and attention they deserve.

Funding animal shelters also takes a huge part in the safety of the animals. It provides dogs and cats needs, and gives them a safe place to sleep at night. Shelters allow cats and dogs to have happy, healthy, and safe lives. Though, some animals get sent to specific shelters to get euthanized. But another thing you could do to help animals is volunteer at shelters and donate to fundraisers. As Well as spread awareness of the pets struggles. Lets be real, animals are killed or harmed each day that passes by, wouldn't you want to stop the abuse and harm done to animals? Animals being seen as something important would reduce the amount of harm done to animals by huge numbers. It would be great if we could get rid of kill shelters all together in oregon. If we make laws planning on getting rid of kill shelters, increase funding for foster homes, and low cost spay and neuter programs. THEN we can decrease the number of homeless animals on the streets.

So please consider passing this bill, it will make the world just a little bit better than before.

Sincerely,

Sophia Stetson  
6th grade  
Quatama Elementary School

Handwritten signature of Sophia in cursive script.Handwritten last name Stetson in cursive script.

Dear Sen. Sollman

Hello, I am a sixth-grade student from Quatama Elementary and I strongly agree with making sheltered cats and dogs the official state pet of Oregon. I am going to talk about 3 reasons shelter cats and dogs should be the state pet of Oregon, it would help sheltered cats and dogs get adopted, It could help bring attention to their struggles, and it might help keep them out of kill shelters.

Firstly, Millions of cats and dogs are left without a home each year, some are even killed in places called kill shelters. On average 1.5M cats and dogs in kill shelters are killed every year. Imagine if those lives were human lives, locked up in shelters just to be killed. If That's why we need to bring attention to bringing sheltered cats and dogs homes and helping them get adopted. That's just one of many reasons why sheltered dogs and cats should be Oregon's state pet.

Second, we need to pay more attention to sheltered cats and dogs needs. Sheltered cats and dogs don't always get the attention they need, some of them are cared for badly. A lot are left in shelters that do not care and do not feed them regularly and some are starved. If we paid more attention to their needs then maybe sheltered cats and dogs could have a better life even if they aren't adopted. If they are treated correctly they might be able to continue their bloodline and not be forcefully bred.

Lastly, as stated before, 1.5M cats and dogs are euthanized every year. Killshelters are so dangerous for animals, and research shows that 56% of dogs and 71% of cats that enter killshelters are euthanized. Not even 50% of dogs or cats make it out of killshelters alive each year. If we can make sheltered cats and dogs the state pet then more people would adopt and save the animals from the horrible killshelters. Because of the increase in animals in shelters killshelters keep killing more cats and dogs every year. One more quick fact, only 15% of dogs and 2% of cats return to their owner, imagine if that was your pet!

In conclusion if we don't make sheltered dogs and cats the state pet killshelters will continue to increase their dog and cat killcount, more and more sheltered dogs and cats might be left without a home each year, sheltered dogs and cats might continue to be abused or starved. If we don't vote for sheltered cats and dogs to be state pet they will have to suffer for a much more extended time. This is why I agree with cats and dogs in shelters being the official state pet of Oregon

Sincerely,



Kai Journey

Quatama Elementary School

Mrs. Jones' 6th Grade Class

Jan 19, 2023

Dear Senator Sollman,

My name is Misty and I think it is important to bring attention to animals in shelters and I want to help. I want to support your motion to make shelter animals our state pets. I believe this is important because To bring awareness to their struggles/ what they go through. To help them get adopted into safe homes. To bring attention to the need fund shelters with grants to support cats and dogs.

First, dogs and cats go through a lot and we need to bring awareness of that. For example, while there in the shelter, they get fear because they are in a cage wondering what's happening with people that they don't know. They also deal with frustration because they are not familiar with the environment and people in the shelter are mostly confined.

Next, I will be speaking about helping cats and dogs get into a safe home. We should get them adopted into safe homes because your saving a cat or dogs life mostly a second chance to live while doing that you're stopping cruel breeding from happening. Also, you are saving a life, If you work out or want to start you can travel along with them as long as they are not lazy to walk or run.

Lastly, I will be talking about bringing attention to the need to fund shelters with grants to support cats and dogs. We should bring attention to the need to fund the shelters because if you don't want to adopt any animals but want to help the shelter you could donate to them, so they can have the necessities for the cats and dogs so they could survive in the shelter, example, pet food, leashes, toys, etc. But you should really donate to shelters so you can help the shelters cover the daily cost of daily operations, supplies, staff training, animal housing upgrades, community outreach programs, animal enrichment and many more. Also, your donations will help provide the care sheltered animals need until a suitable home is found for them.

Thank you for letting me participate in your bill on why we should make sheltered cats and dogs the official state pet because of bringing awareness to their struggles, helping them get adopted into safe homes, and to bring attention to the need fund shelters with grants to support cats and dogs.

Sincerely,



Misty Quim-Xicara

6th grade

Mrs. Jones

Quatama Elementary School

Jan 19, 2023

Dear Senator Sollman,

This is Josh your a senator, who most likely likes dogs, and cats you can do this you can pass that bill, you are a strong person, and I'm on your side it's for the animals, they were the first ones on earth, or... some were the first on earth so thanks. For saving the animals we love and the things we love.

I'm Josh and I like your idea that you want to bring up the struggle of the shelter animals.

Also, I like that you want to make the shelter animals our state pets so they get treated better and get adopted. For them, it's most likely stressful.

And also I like that you are sending out a bill with all of that, to shelters to help them get adopted, and to give shelters funding so they can give better care to the dogs and cats that have to stay there. Like food, medicine, and vaccines, so the shelters are just a, better place for the animals, so that's mainly why I agree with you on your idea

And the shelters are tiny that's a grand main factor of why the shelters are stressful to the dogs and the cats. They were homeless, lost, stray, or just plain kicked onto the streets.

They need to get adopted but with this bill, they can get adopted, they can have an owner, somebody to love, and somewhere to live.

That's the main reason I would vote for you after you do this all for the animals and all you have done, the dogs and cats will appreciate you so thank you, goodbye and ill see you whenever I will again, if ever. goodbye.

Sincerely,

  
Josh Andrews

6th grade

Mrs jones's class

Quatama Elementary

Dear sen Sollman,

It came to my attention that you made a bill to make shelter homes dogs and cats official state animals. This is a great idea because there are so many dogs and cats without a home. My three reasons are it will get them into safe homes, keep them out of kill shelters, and be more respected. If this bill becomes a law then it will allow a lot of dogs and cats in shelters and be adopted.

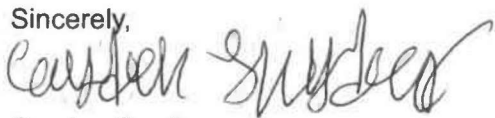
First, it will get them into safe homes. There are so many dogs, cats, and other pets in shelters this will help them become adopted. Some animals don't even live in a shelter and have a hard time finding food. When an animal is wild it may get run over and even animals in shelters still have to be in cages. This would give an animal a better life. The pet would get somebody to play with.

Secondly, this will keep them from kill shelters. So many dogs and cats that end up in kill shelters die. Over 1 million get killed in kill shelters every year. All those dogs and cats could be saved. This would give cats and dogs a better life because they wouldn't be getting put in kill shelters. The animals in the shelters instead of going to kill shelters would get adopted. These animals deserve more than to be tossed into a kill shelter.

Lastly, to give them the respect they deserve. This bill will let animals be treated like family if owned. More cats and dogs will be adopted. They won't get as much. There won't be as many stray or abandoned pets. People will respect and adore cats and dogs. Fewer pets will be treated like nothing. A bunch of cats and dogs will get a real home.

In conclusion, I really support this bill. This really will help the animals who don't get treated the best. This bill will really help so many animals' lives. This will really help animals get to a safe home, stay out of kill shelters, and get better.

Sincerely,



Cayden Snyder

6th grade

Mrs. Jones

Quatama Elementary

Hello,

My name is Braddock and I'm writing this letter for senator Sollman's bill this letter is to ask you to change the state pet to shelter dogs and cats. So I'm asking you think of all the dogs and cats that need a home all those dogs and cats that are sent to a pound and are just left there. I think doing this will help get them more respect. because im tired of all the pets that die each year About 1.5 million shelter animal die each year. So I agree with senator Solmand and i think we should change the state pet. As it would help all the dogs and cats that get abused and harmed and left out on the streets and put into homes. As it can help them get better lifes.

So first I think making them the state pet will get them off the roads and into homes. Making stray dogs and cats the state pet will get them homes and better lives. Then they no longer Have to worry about getting sent to a kill house. Almost 1.5 million stray cats and dogs get killed in a kill house. If they get into homes they can get a roof over their heads, loved, fed. So they can get better lives.

Second, if we can make them the state pet then they will get more respect. Dog fighting will stop as they will have respect and they will stop doing it as it would be an offense to the state flag. They will no longer have bad owners as people will stop throwing them out on the streets. They will keep them in their homes where they can get fed and loved.

Finally, they will get more respect and they will get more attention. They will get feed more and people will no longer ignore them when they need to be let out. And they can get more respect and love and they will get better homes. So I think making them the state pet will help get them better lives.

Sincerely,  
Braddock winder  
Classroom 299  
jones

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Braddock". The letters are somewhat stylized and cursive.

January 19, 2023

Dear Senator Sollman,

Did you know that 1.5 million shelter animals die each year? This is a letter in support of your bill to make shelter dogs and cats the state pet. I agree with you and want to help. I think the three most important reasons are to bring attention to their struggles, they would be more respected, and help them get adopted.

First, let me tell you about how this bill could bring attention to their struggles. It could bring attention to their struggles by people caring about how their state pet is treated. Some of their struggles are they get sick very easily, they don't get vaccinated, and they don't get basic medical needs. This could make people want to donate to the shelters. That's why I think bringing attention to the struggles is one of the most important reasons for this bill to pass.

Next, let me tell you about how the bill would make them more respected. If they were more respected shelter dogs and cats would stay out of kill shelters because people don't want to kill the state pet. That's why I think if they were more respected is one of the most important reasons for the bill to pass.

Lastly, let me tell you about how the bill would make shelter dogs and cats get adopted. If they were adopted they would be in a safer home and would not die as much. That's why I think getting adopted is one of the most important reasons that the bill should pass.

In conclusion those were the reasons that shelter dogs and cats should be the state pet. The reasons were to bring attention to the struggles, they would be more respected, and help them get adopted.

Sincerely, *Jones*



Sawyer James Weeks

Sixth grade student

Ms. Jones class

Quatama Elementary



Dear Senator Sollman

January 20, 2023

Imagine your parents kicked you out of your house and left you on the street to die. This is how shelter pets feel. I want to make shelter Pets the official state pet. How I am going to be doing that is to keep them out of kill shelters, help them get adopted, and get them into safe homes. We need to take action and save Shelter pets from horrible conditions and lifestyles

First we should talk about how we should get them out of kill shelters. The reason is that 920,000 shelter pets get euthanized each year and they don't even get a good burial. Dogs don't even get a Humane death when they get euthanized, they get Frozen, and put into landfill to just never be remembered again. And this happens after 7 days of being in a shelter. Almost all feral cats get euthanized and feral dogs. The high kill shelters are a huge problem for you trying to find a good pet or just trying to give to a safe home because they kill almost all the pets that come into their shelter. And nobody really takes action or even cares about these kill shelters that kill hundreds of thousands shelter pets a year. If we make shelter dogs and cats the state pet we can protect them and save many dogs and cats a year.

Second, we should talk about how to get more pets adopted. An idea is that we could volunteer for our shelters and so you can maybe even get to know the dog or a cat before you adopt them and you can even consider should I adopt this dog or should I move on and try to find a new one it's really crucial to get the pet that you want and need. Another reason for you to volunteer for the shelter so you don't make a mistake getting a dog and then not caring or loving for that dog. It's horrible when people just throw their dogs into the street and don't care about them any more. Another thing for you to kind of think about before you get a dog is you need money for toys and time to spend with the dog or cat. It is crucial not to forget to care about your dog or cat. When you pet a dog or cat You release oxytocin that makes you feel good and just have a better overall mood. They also lower cholesterol, which is a sign of heart disease. Plus heart attack patients survive longer than those who don't have pets. This is why it is important to care and not just forget that you even own a dog. If we make shelter dogs and cats the state pet we could be more aware of shelters near you.

Lastly, we should keep shelter pets out of abusive families. a factor is they don't want the dog to be a dog And they think that there's more to having a dog than just having a dog and having fun with it but there isn't it's just so simple. They think that the dog will last cute or small forever but the truth is it will never last small or cute forever. Dogs get old and sometimes you just forget about them and forget to pay attention to their needs

and to their struggles. People also think it's safe for dogs to just walk in the street alone with no leash no supervision what's really not imagine your dog just gets ran over by a car or really hurt from a coyote that would be traumatizing for the rest of your life it would really suck for that dog and you. And they don't really do much to train the dog, they just allow what's wrong and then the next owners they get the dog they get all the bad habits that the dog inherited. Then the dog doesn't get adopted and then the dog ends up on the streets and after all this it will probably get euthanized. We should help shelter dogs or cats to become the state pet so cats and dogs cant get abusive families and suffer from them.

In conclusion we should make shelter Pets the state pet period we need to get them out of kill shelters, while also getting them adopted, and getting them into safe homes. So we can finally get what shelter pets deserve. There are four F's for shelter pets: family friends, food and freedom; these are crucial to have a pet. A way that we can get them adopted get them into safe homes and keep them out of kill shelters is by making a website or an app to just buy or sell dogs and you can even buy like food or toys off of there that would be the app to go to keep them out of any bad trouble or any horrible situations and get them adopted well also keeping them out of kill shelters.

Sincerely

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Kayden . White

Kayden White

6th grade

Mrs. Jones

Quatama Elementary School

Dear Senator Sollman,

Hello, my name is Izzy and I would like to nudge you toward the idea of making the state pet shelter animals. I hope you will make the right choice and agree with me because it would prevent them from getting into kill shelters, help them get adopted, and help them be more respected.

I want to make shelter animals the state pet because almost 1.5 million animals are killed each year because of kill shelters. The shelters in the U.S. euthanize around 670,000 dogs and 860,000 cats every year. The number one reason why the animals get into kill shelters is that they get thrown out of their homes! Why do they get thrown out you ask? Well, it's usually because the owners don't have enough money, the animals are naughty, etc. how we can stop the loss of money and the animals from being bad, is to have the state pay for free training! Truly knocking down two birds with one stone.

If you want to adopt a pet you should think about getting an animal from a shelter! Or if not you could volunteer at a shelter, donate to a shelter, and so on. If you are looking for something productive to do, you could try one of those things! You should donate because it could help the shelter provide for the animals and get them food and drink so that they don't have to be killed by the shelter. You could be helpful by volunteering as well because you can bring some food and water to the shelter and persuade people that walk in to adopt!

I believe that shelter animals would be more respected as the state pet because they would most likely ban kill shelters for the protection of the animals. The people at the animal shelter would meet better housing standards for people that walk in and need small, medium, or large animals. Humans throughout the United States might pay more attention to shelter animals and have some pity for them. It could also get animals to be adopted and loved by a home.

That brings me to my conclusion. I truly believe that those small defenseless animals deserve better than being killed for no necessary reason. And please, I would strongly encourage you to adopt a shelter animal today.

Sincerely,  
Isabelle Hui  
6th grade, Mrs. Jones, room 229



Dear Senator Sollman,

January 19, 2023

If you were a dog or cat that had been abandoned on a road, how would you feel? This letter is in support of your bill to become law. The shelter dogs and cats should be the Official State Pet for three reasons: 1. To bring attention to their struggles, 2. Help them get adopted, and 3. To get more respect. These animals are being treated so unfairly. They need so much help, and we are the only ones who can help them.

First, we should do this because it would bring attention to their struggles. Kicked-out animals have to deal with little food, little water, and unbearable heat and cold. They can get injured from being abandoned. They need help.

Secondly, we should do this because it would help them get adopted. Every animal that gets adopted is one more space another animal could go. This would give animals the loving family they need. This would help a lot.

Lastly, we should do this because it would give them more respect. People might think twice before expelling an animal. This would likely stop them from getting removed from your home in the first place. This would help them not suffer from the beginning.

In conclusion, shelter dogs and cats should be the State Pet for three reasons: 1. It would bring attention to their struggles, 2. Help them get adopted, and 3. Give them more respect. They would gladly appreciate this. It would save lives. Thank you for coming up with this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Savannah J. Cook". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Savannah J. Cook

6th grade

Mrs. Jones's class

Quatama Elementary School

January 19, 2023

Dear Senator Sollman,

My name is Maddux Takemoto, and I'm a sixth grader at Quatama Elementary School. I'm writing you this letter today to help convince the other senators and representatives to have cats and dogs as our official state pets. Do you know how many cats and dogs die because of kill shelters? About 670,000 dogs and 860,000 cats get killed in kill shelters because of the overpopulation of unwanted and abandoned animals. If we make them our official state pet, then people won't be able to abuse them. This leads me to say that we need to realize their struggles, help fund more shelters, and help get them adopted.

10 million animals die from abuse in the US. But it's not just abuse, they also struggle with being lab experiments. More than 100 million animals have been used for experiments in 2020. Now 115 million animals in 2022 have been used in experiments. But once again, it's not just being abused and being in experiments, it's also because of being left on the streets. 70 million cats and dogs are left on the streets in the US. Worldwide, it is estimated that 200 - 600 million cats and dogs are being left on the streets.

If we fund more animal shelters then we could reduce the number of animals from being homeless and getting killed. When/if this happens, the innocent animals can live and find a family and home. In 2020, 7,204 animals got adopted in the U.S. Two years later, 1 million cats and dogs got adopted and 992,796 more animals got adopted. If we fund more animal shelters then we can help take care of the injured animals. Many animals hurt themselves or get hurt, and because of the medicines that we have, we can help them.

Lastly, we should help them get adopted because just having a pet can fix a mood. If you're sad and cuddle up next to your pet, the world feels like it stops moving. Or if you feel lonely, your pet can make you feel less lonely. It's like having a friend. All those emotions sadness, loneliness, happiness, grief, anger, and so much more can all be with a pet. Whenever you need them, they'll be there for you. Pets can also help get you more exercise. When you play and walk your pet on a daily basis, you exercise. You can even socialize with a pet. When you walk them or play with them outside everyone's going to be coming up to you saying, "Wow!!!! Your pet is SO CUTE!"

Today I have told you why we should have cats and dogs as our state pets. We need to realize their struggles, help fund more animal shelters, and help get them adopted. Many cats and dogs die each year, and we need to do something about it.

Sincerely yours,



Maddux Takemoto  
Quatama Elementary School  
Mrs. Jones' Class

Dear Senator Sollman,

My name is Lena and I'm in 6th grade at Quatama Elementary School. I think the State reps and senators should designate shelter dogs and cats as the official state pets because we need to help them get adopted, get them into homes, and keep them out of kill shelters.

Firstly, why do we need to get shelter dogs and cats adopted? Well, adopting a dog or cat is like adopting a rescue dog or cat. Also, you don't just have to look for a dog in a shelter, there are 70 billion dogs and cats estimated that they are homeless. You can help a dog or cat get off the streets into a safe home. You can foster a dog to make sure they find their forever home.

Secondly, we need to get dogs and cats off the streets and into safe homes. Almost 920,000 are killed because of starvation and not getting the needed care, that's from living on the streets. Some people abuse their dogs and cats out of boredom or starve them if they do something wrong. Dogs and Cats build strong and meaningful bonds with their owner. I have a dog named Kira and every time we come back from school, she runs up to us and jumps up on us. That's what dogs and cats should do when their owner comes home, that's a safe home for a dog

Lastly, dogs and cats have to go to other shelters because of overpopulation in some shelters. 3555,000 cats and dogs have needlessly died. Every year around 1.2 million Dogs are put down at shelters across the U.S. What if 1.2 million dogs and cats were put down? That would be a lot of dogs and cats gone. Most shelters kill animals that are old, seriously ill, or aggressive. I think instead of putting them down we should try to change it, they should also spend time with the old ones and seriously ill ones. A shelter is supposed to be safe for injured, abused, and unwanted animals. That's why I think dogs and cats should be kept out of shelters, especially kill shelters.

In conclusion, I think we should designate sheltered cats and dogs as our official state pet because we need to help them get adopted, get them into homes, and keep them out of kill shelters. I think this is important because dogs and cats deserve to be cared for just like us. I hope this bill gets designated, farewell for now.

Sincerely,

Lena Suarez-Brown  
Quatama Elementry School  
Mrs. Jones' Class

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lena SB', written in a cursive style.

January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023

Dear Senator Solman,

My name is Noah and I think it is important to bring attention to animals in shelters and I want to help. I want to support your motion to make shelter animals our state pet. I think this is important because it will bring attention to their struggle, help them get adopted and bring attention to the need to fund shelter attention.

First, we need to bring attention to their struggle because some dogs and cats have been starving for days. We must also avoid sending them to kill shelters because they will get killed.

The second reason is to help them get adopted. Part of the reason they are stray cats and dogs on the street is cause they have no home for them to go. And if you are an animal lover which I am, I suggest that you can adopt a shelter animal so that they will be healthy and can experience love.

The third and final reason is to help fund shelters home to support cats and dogs. Some wanted to help but they do not have enough money to help them. I also

think that it is important to fund these shelter so that the dogs and cats can have better homes and of course foods. It is also important to help them cause if the shelter run out of money, many of the animal will die or worse send to a kill shelters.

That is the reason why I think it is important to bring attention to shelter animal therefore I support your motive to make shelter animals state pet

Thank you

Neahing Jot Aon

6th Grader

Quatama Elementary School

Mrs Jones Class



