

Submitter: Laurel Hines

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor

Measure: HB2915

I support HB 2915. I recently read a book by an animal behavior specialist called "The Year of the Puppy" by A. Horowitz. She emphasized how crucial the early weeks and months of a puppies life is, in terms of socializing with their litter mates, and then with people. Good breeders provide proper socialization as well as health needs, but puppies in pet stores do not get proper socialization. They spend far too much time isolated and often do not get proper nutrition and care. Good animal shelters now primarily use foster homes for puppies until they are old enough to be adopted, or to be socialized regularly and walked at the shelter. Even kittens need proper handling and socialization for not only their health , but to help them become good pets.

I have a friend who adopted a puppy many years ago from a pet store, not knowing any better at the time. Her little dog had not only health problems, but fearfulness. As a former volunteer at Willamette Humane Society (now OHS-Salem), I appreciated the movement some years ago to use foster homes for most of the puppies, and know how much attention any puppies old enough to actually get put on the adoption floor get from the volunteers. I predict they get far more than any in a cage at a pet store. Kittens also get volunteer attention and socialization at the shelters.

It is far better for people to adopt shelter puppies or kittens, or to adopt a puppy or dog from a reputable breeder who properly socializes and cares for them.