



February 21, 2023

Mr. Chair and members of the committee, my name is Kim Mosiman from Gresham, Oregon. I am the executive director of Sound Equine Options, a nonprofit organization that partners with law enforcement on horse cruelty cases across the State of Oregon and SW Washington.

Over the last 13 years I have assisted with handling, hauling, evidence collection and testifying in over a dozen horse neglect seizures and their accompanying cases. I support this bill for the following reasons:

1. Having a designated animal cruelty prosecutor who understands the Oregon Animal Statutes, has the time to prosecute these important cases, and who has experience from many previous similar cases is vital to getting convictions.
2. By adding this position to the Department of Justice:
 - a. It will help create long term stability for animal law enforcement in The State of Oregon.
 - b. Allow the prosecutor more access to dedicated investigators & staff.
 - c. More county district attorneys will likely feel more open to using an animal cruelty prosecutor if it is not funded by an outside non-profit with possible political implications.
3. Having a designated animal cruelty prosecutor supports Oregon's history as being a leader in protecting animals including existing laws:
 - a. ORS 167.305
Declares animals are sentient beings capable of experiencing pain, stress and fear; Animals should be cared for in ways that minimize pain, stress, fear and suffering.
 - b. ORS 167.325
Animal neglect becomes a Class C felony if there is a prior conviction for animal neglect, the crime is committed in the presence of a minor or if 10 or more animals are involved in the crime.



- c. ORS 167.340
Additionally, it is a Class B misdemeanor to leave a domestic animal or horse at a location without providing minimum care.
- 4. Animal Anti-Cruelty Laws are important to Americans. A May 2022 survey by YouGov America found that:
 - a. 45 % of Americans believe that current laws on animal cruelty were not strict enough, while another 32% thought they were about right. That means it is important to 77% of Americans to enforce existing or create additional animal cruelty laws.
- 5. Animal cruelty is a community safety concern.
 - a. The National Sheriffs Association states that substantial research establishes the link between animal cruelty and other criminal behavior such as domestic violence, child abuse, elder abuse, homicide, sexual assault, drug/weapons violations, and terrorism.
 - b. I personally have been involved in horse neglect situations where the perpetrators were also associated with the following crimes or behaviors:
 - i. Domestic Violence
 - ii. Child Neglect
 - iii. Stolen Property
 - iv. Drug Use
 - v. Major Drug Distribution
 - vi. Serious Mental Illness
 - vii. Lack of Empathy towards animals and people
 - viii. Theft/Bad Checks
 - ix. Shoot out with law enforcement.

For these reasons, I believe that all the communities in the State of Oregon would be well served by passing SB 696.

Thank You,
Kim Mosiman
Executive Director

