



February 1, 2023

To: House Committee On Judiciary

Re: Statement IN SUPPORT of HB 3571

Chair Kropf, Vice-chairs Anderson and Wallan, members of the committee:

My name is Randy Covey, Manager of Washington County Animal Services

I'm providing testimony in support of HB 3571, contingent on the inclusion of certain critical amendments.

I've been involved in Animal Welfare Law Enforcement and animal shelter management for over 36 years, most of that time here in the State of Oregon. I've managed both private and municipal animal shelters and am very familiar with the challenges posed by stray cats and the dearth of resources available to address them.

I'm testifying in support of HB 3571 contingent on the inclusion of several critical amendments that have been discussed with the sponsors of this bill and my colleagues on the Oregon Animal Control Council and fellow shelter managers across the State.

Those amendments include:

- Removing all references to dogs from the bill.
- Requiring that stray cats being held by any Animal Holding Agency be reported within 24 hours to any government shelter that maintains a lost and found service for cats in the jurisdiction where the stray cat was found.
- Stipulating that reasonable fees for redemption of cats by their owners not exceed industry standards.
- Limiting stray cat intake and holding to licensed Animal Rescue Entities with a fixed brick-and-mortar animal shelter facility that is open to the public at least 5 days a week.

If these amendments are included, I urge you to support HB 3571 and work towards its passage into law.

Respectfully,

Randall B. Covey, Manager, Washington County Animal Services | 503-846-7148
A Division of the Washington County Department of Health and Human Services