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On Behalf Of: AWE Advocates for Wild Equines
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB4043

Oregon House of Representatives HB 4043

Chief Sponsor:
Representative Conrad and Members of the Working Group

Oregon is rated third in the nation for positive animal cruelty legislation. We value protective measures that safeguard sentient beings from suffering.

That individuals attempt to mislead or obstruct investigations into animal cruelty is a common but disruptive occurrence. This reflects the need to identify this aspect of animal abuse as an element of cruelty that is prosecutable in its own right. I support this aspect of the amendment wholeheartedly.

Identifying “the obstruction” of an animal cruelty investigation as a crime in it's own right is an important step.

Interference in cruelty investigations can take many forms, but the impact frequently misdirects resources and drains financial reserves that are needed to fund protective efforts, essentially, aiding the abuser not the abused.

The connection between domestic violence and animal abuse (approximately 71% of people convicted of domestic violence have also abused animals) underlines the importance of investigating and prosecuting animal abuse, and those who would obstruct these investigations.

Research does not support the effectiveness of fines for reducing the likelihood of repeat crimes against animals.

<https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtual-library/abstracts/effectiveness-court-ordered-punishment-fines-versus-no-punishment>

Animal abuse and neglect penalties must be both appropriate and stringent enough to both prohibit and deter repetition.

I support increasing potential penalties only if an educational or a treatment component is included in the sentence. Animal cruelty is rarely a simple, easily correctable offence. It is more likely to be symptomatic of problems that require support to prevent additional offences. A review of the literature related to adult

animal abusers demonstrates the complex nature of this offence and the need for a more comprehensive approach to addressing this issue effectively.

Alleyne, Emma and Parfitt, Charlotte (2017) Adult Perpetrated Animal Abuse, A Systematic Literature Review, *Trauma, Violence and Abuse* 20(3) pp 344-357 ISSN 1524-8380

As we advance our protective laws for animals, we step closer to being a just and compassionate community that nurtures a healthy and just society for our children.

Lorna Torrey Palermo
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(A brief word about societal treatment of Wild Equines.

Most animal abuse is carried out in secrecy, but in the case of Oregon's Wild Equines, these violations of Oregon Law take place in public. All animals in Oregon deserve the protection of Oregon's animal cruelty laws. For example, holding animals in pens without any shelter from the sun, wind, snow or rain is not allowed in this state. Oregon's wild horses are held in pens that lack any form of shelter or protection from the elements for months or longer. This is unacceptable. All Oregonians are required to provide adequate shelter for their animals. When a government agency overlooks visible neglect and abuse of one animal species, it seems reminiscent of misleading the public or obstructing justice.)