

Christopher Allori  
Chief of Humane Law Enforcement  
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February 12, 2024

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher and Members of the Committee.

For the record, my name is Chris Allori and I work for the Oregon Humane Society (OHS) in the role of Chief of Humane Law Enforcement. Prior to my employment with OHS, the Oregon State Police employed me for 26 years, where I spent the majority of my career enforcing Oregon's wildlife laws. As a humane special agent commissioned by the Oregon State Police, I have been enforcing Oregon's animal welfare laws for nearly 4 years.

**Today, I am here today to ask you to support statutory language changes enclosed within SB 1574. The first proposed change would allow humane special agents to access DMV records and the other change would allow humane law enforcement to have nationwide criminal background checks conducted.**

Each year, the Oregon Humane Society humane law enforcement department receives thousands of reports concerning animal welfare offenses occurring throughout the state of Oregon. I have personally investigated numerous cases involving criminal animal abuse, neglect, and abandonment since my employment began with OHS. The investigation techniques I utilize for animal welfare investigations are similar to those criminal investigations I conducted while employed by the Oregon State Police.

I have found that access to DMV records is necessary to ensure criminal citations issued by humane special agents are to the correct individual. DMV records are also an important component as a basis of knowledge when identifying individuals noted within a written affidavit for search warrant.

However, access to DMV records is not only used to ensure the correct identification of people, but it is also used for officer safety purposes. There is a documented link between animal abuse/neglect and human abuse/neglect, which humane special agents are well aware of. Humane special agents often investigate reports of criminal behavior involving animal welfare offenses where human violence has also been reported. Having access to as much information as possible, including DMV records, provides information that is useful to humane special agents prior to their arrival at a reported residence.

The ability to query an individual by their name and date of birth or a driver's license number provides officers with information about a person including a photograph of the person if one exists. The same information from a motor vehicle license plate check can also reveal

information needed by humane agents to determine the possible occupant of either a vehicle or the residence the vehicle may be associated with.

The ability to access department of motor vehicle records is often key to identifying individuals that may be involved in animal welfare offenses. Sections 3 and 4 of SB1574 adds statutory language to allow humane law enforcement officers to access personal information and photographs that are held within the DMV records.

Amendment 8 to SB 1574 will add statutory language to allow the OHS humane law enforcement department to have a nationwide criminal records check using fingerprints from employees, those seeking employment, contractors, vendors or volunteers providing service to humane law enforcement. The ability to conduct thorough background checks is necessary to ensure the integrity of humane law enforcement employees who conduct animal welfare investigations, handle evidence and have access to criminal justice information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christopher Allori".

Christopher Allori  
Chief of Humane Law Enforcement  
Oregon Humane Society