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On Behalf Of: Humane World
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3871

HB 3871 would establish an Oregon Animal Welfare Trust to generate funds to support organizations and other entities that provide free veterinary support services to low-income pet households and/or underserved communities, including Oregon's Indigenous communities. We all know that Oregon is experiencing a veterinary access to care crisis, leading to increased costs of services, including preventative and wellness care. Many pets across Oregon would not receive any veterinary care at all if not for local nonprofit organizations like Fences For Fido and others providing low to no-cost services for pets in underserved communities. Yet, nonprofit organizations cannot keep up with the growing demand for subsidized services. The lack of access to essential animal care resources also impacts the ability of people and pets to stay together. According to the Human Animal Support Services, the inability to afford or access veterinary care is regularly cited as one of the top two reasons for pet relinquishment nationwide.

HB 3871 is an important step in creating equity in access to veterinary care-- removing barriers for pet households experiencing poverty and in underserved communities where it is most needed.