



Friends of Felines

Adoption Center ♥ Spay / Neuter Clinic ♥ Wellness Clinic

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire

900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: Testimony in Support of SB 1076

Dear Chair Golden, Vice Chair Nash and Members of the Committee,

My name is Chelsey Marks and I am Executive Director at Friends of Felines, a nonprofit feline rescue, adoption center and high-quality, high-volume feline spay & neuter clinic in Keizer, Oregon. Our organization is proudly dedicated to improving animal welfare through rescue, rehabilitation, and accessible veterinary care for all cats. Since our beginning in 2004, we have facilitated the rescue and adoption of over 19,900 (many of them abandoned, stray or hoarding cases) and provided essential veterinary services for all of them, and since opening our clinic October 1st, 2021 we have performed over 15,000 surgeries for our community and beyond.

We strongly support SB 1076, which establishes a much-needed licensing and oversight framework for small animal breeders in our state. As an animal welfare organization that works closely with the most vulnerable of animals and pet owners, we have seen firsthand the consequences of unregulated cat breeding, including neglect, abuse, and the public health risks associated with the substandard living conditions in which animal breeders, turned animal hoarders, live their daily lives.

This bill is a step toward ensuring that all breeders meet acceptable standards of care and provides means to hold bad actors accountable. The establishment of a breeder licensing program, along with inspection and enforcement provisions, will help curb irresponsible breeding practices that currently exist in our communities, thereby reducing the burden on our already overwhelmed animal shelters and rescues. This bill does not aim to cause harm to reputable animal breeders, as they should have no issue with meeting acceptable standards of care for their animals.

Additionally, the bill takes into consideration the size of the breeding operation in setting licensing fees and requirements, ensuring that regulations are equitable. The inclusion of penalties for noncompliance further strengthens Oregon's commitment to safeguarding animals from abuse and neglect.

By passing this legislation, we can create a system that prioritizes responsible animal breeding, humane treatment of all animals, and accountability. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Chelsey Marks, CVT
Executive Director
Friends of Felines