



March 18, 2025

Bill Relating to Animal Welfare Trust
Written Testimony in Support of OR HB3871

I encourage everyone to vote Yes, in support of HB3871 a Measure to establish the Animal Welfare Trust to provide grants related to animals in Oregon. This Trust will also provide grants for veterinary support services related to animals in low-income households and underserved communities.

As President of the nonprofit organization PDX Cat Trapper, who works tirelessly in our communities to prevent cat overpopulation not only through TNR – Trap Neuter Return - but also by sponsoring spays and neuters to low-income residents and underserved populations in our communities, this Animal Welfare Trust would be a crucial building block in lessening the burden that currently falls on nonprofit organizations who are currently picking up the slack from our county animal services.

The services we provide are invaluable to our most vulnerable members of society. PDX Cat Trapper predominantly assists the most vulnerable members of our society; the elderly, disabled, veteran, low-income, and immigrant communities with their cat overpopulation problems. Not only do we help with spay/neuter services, but provide vaccines, flea treatment, antibiotics if needed, eye removals, cat dentals with extractions, amputations, and other necessary medical care that is unaffordable to these underserved populations. The need is so great that we cannot just utilize the higher volume feral clinics but are also utilizing private veterinarians who support our mission, and we pay for these services.

We are currently spaying and neutering, and/or diverting into local rescue organizations, over 1000 cats per year, within the Portland Metro Area. This is a massive number for a small organization that receives ZERO public funding and is fully staffed by volunteers who work full time jobs NOT in animal services.

But the need is even greater. Animals fall through the cracks every day all around Oregon, and our community members are unable to receive the care and support needed for their companion animals.

Our shelters are constantly operating at or above capacity, unable to make an impact in our communities. This is not sustainable, and neither is the alternative of mass euthanasia. Rescue groups cannot continue to pick up the slack, especially since the vast majority of these operate fully on donations and receive no public funding.

I urge you all to please support Oregon HB 3871 to help build an equitable system where agencies, animal rescue entities, community service providers and veterinary clinics can all work together to help in our low-income and underserved communities.

Thank you.

Karen Jealous
President
PDX Cat Trapper



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