



February 12, 2018

The Honorable Governor Kate Brown  
Office of the Governor  
900 Court Street NE, Suite 254  
Salem, OR 97301-4047

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**RE: VETERINARY SUPPORT for HB 4045: *Relating to Retail Pet Stores***

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association (HSVMA), we are writing to request that you sign into law House Bill 4045, legislation that would require that Oregon pet stores limit retail sales of dogs to those obtained from animal shelters or rescue organizations.

HSVMA is an association of approximately 9,500 veterinary professionals nationwide, including approximately 350 Oregon veterinarians and veterinary technicians, with a focus on the health and welfare of all animals, including dogs and cats.

The framework in which pet sales occur is changing dramatically. A significant majority of pet stores in Oregon no longer sell dogs obtained from commercial breeding operations. Instead, many operate successfully using a viable business model in which they partner with rescue organizations to offer dogs for adoption in their stores and achieve mutually beneficial results.

By severing connections with inherently inhumane commercial breeding enterprises known as ‘mills,’ the pet stores are no longer supporting businesses which often house dogs in substandard conditions, provide inadequate veterinary medical care and little to no socialization. As veterinarians, we have seen many of these dogs in our practices after they have been purchased by Oregon families and end up with severe health and behavior problems, causing unanticipated expenses and severe heartbreak for all involved.

Conversely, by partnering with rescue groups and shelters to offer dogs for adoption in their stores, pet shops are helping to reduce the societal burdens of housing and/or euthanizing so many dogs and also creating goodwill among the adopters, many of whom will become loyal customers for their pet supply needs.

We join many animal protection organizations, including the Humane Society of the United States in supporting HB 4045. Many jurisdictions across the country have already enacted similar legislation.

Thank you for your humane leadership on this important animal welfare legislation.

Sincerely,

Katie Bahr, DVM

HSVMA Oregon State Representative

Medical Director, Bend Spay+Neuter Project