

Oregon animal advocates discuss pet-friendly agenda with lawmakers in Salem today

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More than 200 animal advocates from throughout the state are gathering in Salem this morning to meet with legislators and lobby for animal-friendly bills.

Participants in Humane Lobby Day, sponsored by **The Humane Society of the United States**, include members of HSUS; **Grey2K USA**, a greyhound advocate group; and **The Paw Project**, a nonprofit working to ban the practice of cat declawing.

They'll discuss the following bills:

Ivory and rhino horn ban:

A bill that would prohibit ownership, transfer and sale of endangered ivory and rhino horn. While ivory and rhino horn importation are illegal in the U.S., animal advocates say the black-market trade could lead to elephant extinction and supports terrorist organizations.

The bill would make it a crime to engage in endangered ivory and rhino horn trade in Oregon, with exemptions for antique dealers who have products made before the passage of the Endangered Species Act.

HB 2824, the "pet-friendly housing bill," which would prohibit landlords from requiring tenants to "debark" dogs and declaw cats as a condition of tenancy. Advocates say this practice results in tenants relinquishing their pets to shelters because they can't afford the procedures or they don't want to subject their animals to the often-painful and cosmetic procedures.

The bill would ensure that landlords who allow pets won't force their tenants to subject the animals to permanent, irreversible procedures.

Bill that would require pet "leasing" businesses to comply with Oregon puppy mill law.

Animal lobbyists say businesses that engage in the practice of "leasing" pets can evade provisions of Oregon's puppy mill law. This bill would require those businesses to operate under the authority of that law to ensure puppies have proper care and consumers have sufficient information about the dog they acquire.

HB 2765, which would ban greyhound racing in Oregon.

The greyhound track in eastern Portland is not currently in operation, but an investor could still legally purchase

the property it and bring greyhound racing back to Oregon. This bill would prevent that from happening by banning greyhound racing in the state.

Participants in the Humane Lobby Day event also oppose several bills that would weaken protections for cougars and other wild animals.

The bills they oppose include:

SB 126, SB 453, HB 2050, and HB 2181, which essentially allow rural counties to permit cougar hunting using packs of radio-collared hounds.

HJR 13, the "Right to Hunt" bill: This would allow people to hunt, trap and fish by using "traditional methods" which animal advocates say are cruel and irresponsible.

HB 2503: The bill to protect lead ammunition: Toxic lead ammunition is linked to the poisoning deaths of numerous wild animals in Oregon, including eagles and other raptors, carnivores, and scavenging species. This bill would protect the use of toxic lead ammunition by leaving the right to regulate hunting ammunition and fishing gear up to the Legislature, rather than the **Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission** or voters.

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