



## PETITION TO GOVERNOR KATE BROWN FROM 62 CONCERNED OREGON VETERINARIANS

Specifically addressing authorities' wrongful and inhumane killing  
of a bobcat kitten on October 16, 2019 at Oak Hill School in Eugene

*Transmitted via mail and email on November 13, 2019*

Dear Governor Brown,

We, the undersigned Oregon veterinarians, believe that public authorities unnecessarily and inhumanely killed a bobcat kitten using blunt force trauma on October 16, 2019, simply because it naively wandered into an open door at the Oak Hill School in Eugene. The authorities' decision to bludgeon the kitten to death and then claim it had been humanely euthanized according to American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals is unacceptable, cruel, and offensive to our profession.

AVMA guidelines were not followed. The kitten was not injured or sick, and its life was not ended painlessly as a last resort. A physical and behavioral assessment, as well as options for treatment, should have been made by a professionally trained veterinarian. Given that the kitten was actually displaying no abnormal or aggressive behavior, it should most likely have been released in the same way the second bobcat was the next day.

Euthanasia is a painless method to end a life to relieve the pain and suffering of a hopelessly sick or injured animal. AVMA guidelines clearly state that blunt force trauma to the head is used primarily for small laboratory animals with thin craniums, and that alternate approaches should be actively sought. It is not listed under acceptable methods of euthanasia for wildlife. State officials did not euthanize this animal. They killed it for no justifiable reason using an extremely painful technique of bashing it in the head.

### **We ask that the State of Oregon:**

- 1. Undertake a full investigation** of this incident, **hold the individuals involved responsible** for any policy violations, and **train them in humane methods** of handling animals that also exclude unnecessary death.
- 2. Establish explicit protocols on how to humanely respond to wildlife and domestic animal incidents.** These should include:
  - using nonlethal options as a first priority
  - humanely treating the animal
  - consulting with veterinary professionals to assess the animal's condition and best options for handling
  - using specific veterinary-approved methods of euthanasia as a last resort, and only if professional veterinary treatment is unavailable

**3. Require that all agencies responding to calls about wildlife receive full training in humane and veterinary-approved handling of animals.**

We thank you for any and all actions you can take to bring Oregon's wildlife policies and procedures into alignment with humane and scientifically best-available practices.

**SUBMITTED BY:**

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