



The Honorable Bob Ferguson
Office of the Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Ferguson:

I am writing to you on behalf of Seattle Humane and in support of HB 2247 which would expand access to vet care to pets who otherwise likely wouldn't be seen by a vet. This bill passed both the House and Senate and is now awaiting your signature.

At Seattle Humane, we know firsthand how important it is to ensure pets and their owners are supported. In 2025, we served nearly 82,000 people and pets through our programs and saved the lives of more than 5,200 shelter pets. Our veterinary team provides more than 10,000 exams and 10,000 surgeries each year for pets in need of medical care. In addition to shelter surgeries, we also work within our local communities to provide access to vet care in populations that have some of the highest barriers for receiving services, including unhoused and disabled pet owners. We have a front row seat on how outdated regulations restricting access to veterinary telemedicine can prevent people from seeking care for their pets, because they are unable to make it to a physical veterinary clinic.

Washington state currently has a Veterinary Care Accessibility Score of 44 out of 100—a failing grade. By enabling the virtual establishment of a veterinary-client-patient-relationship (VCPR) with appropriate guardrails, Washington can address the financial, geographic or logistical obstacles that prevent pet owners from accessing veterinary care.

Seattle Humane respectfully urges you to sign into law this important piece of legislation to empower Washington veterinarians to use telemedicine to establish a VCPR, thereby significantly improving veterinary care accessibility for pets and owners in our state.

Sincerely,

Jessie Swisher Spiers
Executive Director

