



CALIFORNIA HEALTHY PETS ACT 2007
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California Healthy Pets Act Passes Assembly Committee

Universal spaying and neutering of most California dogs and cats will save taxpayers millions

SACRAMENTO – The California Healthy Pets Act achieved its first legislative victory this morning when it was passed by the Assembly Committee on Business and Professions by a vote of 7-2. Authored by Assemblymember Lloyd Levine (D-Van Nuys), the bill would require most pet owners with a dog or cat over four months old to have their pets spayed or neutered.

"I commend the Committee for its vote today to pass along this vital piece of legislation that aims to cut down on the number of, and costs associated, with unwanted animals in California," said Assemblymember Lloyd Levine. "Requiring spay and neutering of cats and dogs is a reasonable, proven-effective and necessary means to greatly reduce the number of unwanted animals and the practice of euthanizing healthy adoptable animals. It is my hope that today's vote will continue the momentum being generated to get this bill signed into law."

"The California Healthy Pets Act is a common sense solution to protect the health of our pets, improve the safety of our communities, and put an end to the hundreds of millions of dollars taxpayers spend each year to house and ultimately euthanize our abandoned pets," said California Healthy Pets Campaign Director Judie Mancuso. "We thank the seven Committee members who voted with the vets, animal control officers and thousands of animal lovers today."

The California Healthy Pets Act received the unanimous support of the Los Angeles City Council last week. Los Angeles Animal Services Director Ed Boks who attended today's Committee hearing said, "From the City of Los Angeles to Sacramento, everybody is beginning to recognize that the abandoned pet population in our state is a serious problem that has gone on for too long. We are deeply gratified by today's vote and the step the Committee has taken today to address this problem."

AB 1634 received the support of Committee Chair Mike Eng along with Assemblymembers Karen Bass, Wilmer Amina Carter, Mary Hayashi, Edward Hernandez, Curren Price and Alberto Torrico.

The California Healthy Pets Act (AB 1634) would require that every dog and cat in the State of California be spayed or neutered. The bill contains 20 common sense exceptions for guide dogs, show dogs, sporting dogs, law enforcement dogs, search and rescue dogs, service dogs, signal dogs, purebred dogs, pets that are elderly, pets that are in poor health, pets that are ill, pets that are non-residents and pets that have won titles for conformation, obedience, agility, carting, protection, rally, working or herding competitions.

The bill is largely modeled upon a successful universal spay and neuter ordinance that the County of Santa Cruz implemented in 1995. By 2005, although the county's human population had grown by 15%, its shelter's intake numbers had plummeted by 64%, from 14,000 to 5,000 animals, the majority of which were already spayed or neutered. This clear success has inspired other jurisdictions, including the Counties of Lake, Los Angeles and Stanislaus and the cities of Sacramento and San Bernardino, to adopt similar measures.

For more information, please visit our Web site at www.cahealthypets.com.

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