



Unlicensed, Unregulated Animal Breeders Are Seeking to Protect Their Profits by Defeating AB 1634

The California Healthy Pets Act Means Healthier Pets, Safer Communities, Taxpayer Savings

Vote Expected in April

By Judie Mancuso
Sponsor and Campaign Director
[AB 1634 California Healthy Pets Act](#)



Local officials, humane organizations, law enforcement officers, taxpayer advocates, animal control officers, veterinarians and animal welfare supporters all agree that AB 1634 – The California Healthy Pets Act, authored by Assemblyman Lloyd Levine (D-Van Nuys) – is a common-sense, humane and taxpayer friendly solution to the problems associated with pet overpopulation and overbreeding.

These problems are more wide-ranging and pervasive than many Californians know. Every year nearly 1 million pets are abandoned in California – and every year more than half of these animals are euthanized. Aggressive stray dogs roam through many neighborhoods, increasing the danger of dog bites and the transmission of diseases, while also increasing local taxpayer costs for law enforcement response to these public safety problems. In addition, \$250 million in California taxpayer money is spent every year on housing abandoned cats and dogs in shelters and euthanizing the large majority of these pets.

There is a proven approach to solving this problem: mandatory spay/neuter laws, with limited but responsible exemptions. With the wide availability of free or low-cost spay/neuter services, mandatory spay/neuter laws do not pose a financial burden for pet owners. It's a common-sense, humane and taxpayer-friendly solution to the growing problem of pet overpopulation.

What the California Healthy Pets Act Would Do

AB 1634 was authored and introduced by Assemblyman Lloyd Levine, and won passage on the floor of the Assembly in 2007. It is now before the State Senate Local Government Committee for consideration and approval.

AB 1634 would require the spaying and neutering of most cats and dogs, with sensible exemptions, including:

- Dogs that are actively being used or raised to be used by law enforcement, fire agencies or working dog organizations
- Dogs that are owned by a breeder of working dogs or by a person who supplies working dogs to law enforcement, fire agencies or working dog organizations

- Pets that are owned by a licensed breeder
- Cats or dogs that belong to a recognized registry or association, and are either show animals or being trained as a show animals, or have earned or are earning a title from a recognized registry or association
- Pets whose owners provide a veterinarian's letter stating that it is unsafe to spay or neuter the cat or dog because of the animal's age, poor health or illness
- Dogs that are used for herding or guarding livestock and whose owners live on or own agricultural property

Persons or organizations that breed guide dogs, signal dogs and service dogs are presumptively entitled to an intact permit

Family dogs are allowed to have a single litter

Local animal control agencies would be responsible for enforcing AB 1634.

What the California Healthy Pets Act Would NOT Do

AB 1634 makes so much sense, and is supported by such a broad range of individuals and organizations involved in protecting animals, that many people are surprised by the opposition it has sparked. But that opposition is largely fueled and funded by unlicensed and unregulated animal breeders who fear that even modest, common-sense solutions would threaten their enormous profits by inviting scrutiny of their inhumane practices and unreported income. These special interests are reported to have raised millions of dollars to pay for high-priced political consultants and lobbyists to oppose AB 1634, using disinformation and distortions to fuel their efforts with a "sky is falling" narrative about what they claim AB 1634 would do. Supporters of AB 1634 are quick to counter these scare tactics with the facts, correcting the distortions and outright lies by making Senators and the media aware that:

AB 1634 would NOT ALLOW police to arrest citizens for lack of compliance

AB 1634 would NOT ALLOW animal control officers to confiscate pets for lack of compliance

AB 1634 would NOT ALLOW animal control agencies or police personnel to enter private homes to write citations

AB 1634 would NOT INCREASE TAXPAYER COSTS – in fact, AB 1634 would do just the opposite by REDUCING the \$250 million taxpayers dish out every year for local animal control agencies to house and euthanize hundreds of thousands of animals



At an L.A. press conference, Bob Barker speaks out in support of AB 1634, while Assemblyman (and author of the bill) Lloyd Levine and Sponsor/Campaign Director Judie Mancuso look on.

Who Supports the California Healthy Pets Act

AB 1634 was developed by a diverse coalition of veterinarians, animal control officers, government officials and animal advocates, and has a long list of endorsers:

Sponsors

California Animal Control Directors' Association
City of Los Angeles
Social Compassion in Legislation
State Humane Association of California

Elected Officials

Over 50 cities, mayors and councilmembers from across the state

Law Enforcement

Over 20 police departments and sheriffs from across the state

City & County Agencies

A long list of animal control and animal services agencies from across California

Humane Societies & SPCAs

Over 40 humane societies and SPCAs, including virtually every major group in the state

Veterinarians & Veterinary Hospitals

Veterinary associations and a myriad of individual veterinarians and veterinary clinics

National Animal Welfare Organizations

Virtually all the major animal welfare organizations working in California, including:

American Humane Association
Animal Legal Defense Fund
Animal Protection Institute
Association of Veterinarians for Animal Rights

Doris Day Animal League
Humane Society of the United States
SPCA International
In Defense of Animals
International Fund for Animal Welfare
Last Chance for Animals
National Cat Protection
United Animal Nations
Best Friends Society
Humane America Animal Foundation

California State Rescue Organizations

Over 500 California animal rescue organizations, including virtually every major rescue group

Individuals & Other Organizations

Over 50 "celebrity" endorsements
Over 100 other organizations across California
Over 10,000 individual Californians have written their legislators so far, a volume of support described as "unprecedented" by lawmakers

Supporters of AB 1634 say the facts, presented by this wide-ranging list of advocates, will carry the day and help win Senate approval for the bill, expected to be considered in April by the Senate Local Government Committee. Approval by the committee would send the bill to the floor for a vote by the full Senate.

For more information please visit us at <http://www.cahealthypets.com>.

Posted on February 13, 2008

Comments

AB1634 is the ANSWER!!! Don't let breeders making money off the sweat of their animals cost us the tax payer any more money.

Just because people "buy" purebred dogs and cats doesn't mean that the first time the pee on the floor, scratch the chair, chew up plants or dig holes, they won't be dumped at the local shelter. It happens ALL the time. Want a purebred dog or cat? Go to your local shelter or rescue group and get one. Quit supporting these breeders who only add to the problem for profit.

Posted by: Barbara at February 13, 2008 09:22 AM

Every day I visit the stray section of local SPCAs and shelters, I see the same pleading expressions begging for my help: those animal shelter employees and volunteers sickened by having to kill hundreds of babies each week. They have less than a week, in most cases, to find a good, permanent home for unwanted animals.

On an average Wednesday there are 212 "Stray" puppies (plus adult dogs) and about 50 "stray" but tame kittens (plus adult cats) awaiting adoption at Fresno SPCA. A handful of the pups (5 or 6), perhaps ONE kitten is rescued or adopted and the bulk of each litter destroyed. Those 'more desirable' pups and kittens competing for homes place stress on the long odds of mature dogs which rarely get out alive; maybe 2 in 25.

"Unwanted, unintentional and inadvertant" breedings are killing tens of thousands of healthy pets each month. About 25 to 30 percent of adult dogs are purebred dogs, almost all the pups are mixes. Nearly ALL the kittens are tame, and about two thirds of the cats are under a year! Perhaps this isn't repeated in EVERY California shelter, but it happens DAILY in Imperial Valley, Riverside, Apple Valley, Hesperia, Victorville, Tulare, Lompoc, Hanford, Visalia, Barstow, Bakersfield, Lancaster, Fresno, Sacramento, Madera, Modesto, Merced, Mariposa, Chico, Chowchilla and all the 30+ little local police impoundment stations which dot the central valley.

It couldn't be clearer: this state is flooded with unwanted puppies and kittens and taxpayers are getting hammered with the cost of poor breeding practices like show breeders selling nearly all of their dogs intact and unchipped/not tattooed. It needs to be reigned in so we can balance our budget and stop the killing NOW!

US Federal Court has declared AB1634 to be FULLY CONSTITUTIONAL, fair AND necessary to address legitimate health and public safety concerns. The Court also declared there is NO RIGHT to breed dogs and breeder economic interests ARE NOT INFRINGED IN ANYWAY by AB1634. ALL the 'legal claims' of these opposition breeder groups have been completely smashed and exposed for what they are: the self-indignant HYPE of people ripping off the California taxpayer.

Breeders are PROTECTED and their profits are improved because AB1634 decreases the supply of low quality, unwanted purebred dogs from backyard or otherwise uninformed breeders. By reducing availability of inexpensive puppies and kittens AB1634 assures people wanting pets must step up and make the financial and moral commitment to a pet, and that translates to more dogs staying in their homes! (The cost of keeping a medium size dog to age 11 is \$64,000!)

ALL breeders of cats and dogs need to step up and do their social duties like pay their taxes, license their dogs, comply with zoning laws, and shoulder their burden for selling unaltered pets to those backyarders. In other words: behave like mature RESPONSIBLE adults instead of greedy, socially retarded fifth graders.

Posted by: Kelly Burch at February 13, 2008 10:04 AM

It is outrageous that my tax dollars are used to dispose of the overstock of irresponsible dog and cat breeders. Imagine if cow breeders made the cows they couldn't sell the problem of Californina taxpayers to house and dispose of. We'd have a law written and signed in about a week.

Posted by: Ed Buck at February 13, 2008 12:15 PM