



Irish Wolfhound Club of America, Inc.

June 23, 2009
Senate Committee on Public Safety

Subject: **OPPOSE AB 1122 as Amended 5/14/2009**
VOTE 'NO' ON AB 1122

Dear Senator Mark Leno, John Benoit and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety;

I am writing on behalf of the Irish Wolfhound Club of America (IWCA) and the IWCA Legislative Committee (IWCA-LC). The IWCA is the 700-member parent club for Irish Wolfhound owners nation-wide, as well as the anchor for 14 Regional and Local Clubs. Two of the oldest of those regional clubs are located in California, thereby giving this breed a substantial California presence with a strong vested interest in the activities of its elected officials.

The IWCA and IWCA-LC concur with the AKC's opposition to AB 1122. The IWCA agrees with the AKC in its support of reasonable and enforceable laws that protect the welfare and health of dogs without restricting the rights of owners and breeders who take their responsibilities seriously. Unfortunately, this bill if enacted does not meet those criteria.

AB 1122 would create a new crime for selling, displaying or offering for sale or giving away as part of a commercial transaction a live animal on any street, highway, public right-of-way, commercial parking lot sale, carnival or boardwalk. The unintended consequences of this bill would be severe. Many Californians are struggling to find housing in the current economic crisis. When a family loses their home they often lose their pets as well. By eliminating the citizens of California's rights to sell, display or even give away their animals, the state would be leaving many families with no other choice than to leave their beloved pets to an uncertain fate at the local pound. City and county shelters would be overwhelmed with pets that could have been placed in caring homes by their previous loving families, and those families would be left with the added psychological trauma of knowing their pets were at risk for an untimely end in a strange place.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported an 11.2% unemployment rate for California, March 2009. According to UCLA Anderson Forecast Senior Economist Jerry Nickelsburg, the current forecast (for California) "reflects a deeper and longer recession than we previously thought." It would be far more humane, for both pets and people, to leave California's families with the option to re-home their pets by selling or giving away as they deem best. Please do not support this ill-considered bill.

The IWCA-LC on behalf of the IWCA membership, many of whom are residents of California, respectfully urges you to **vote 'NO' when AB 1122** is brought to a vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Scotia Colleen Brosnan
Irish Wolfhound Club of America, Inc.
Legislative Committee
P.O. Box 6322
Folsom, CA 95763
(916) 983-8704