



Irish Wolfhound Club of America, Inc.

June 1, 2009
"Floor Alert"

Subject: **OPPOSE SB 250 as Amended 5/28 /2009**
VOTE 'NO' ON SB 250

Dear Senators and Assembly Members:

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 continue to oppose SB 250 as it's a flawed piece of legislation which cannot be fixed with any subsequent amendments. We therefore request to be included in the numerical individual **opposition** count for any Bill Analysis. Additionally, we request that our **opposition** not be withdrawn except by my written consent.

Senator Florez has amended this bill to pass on the fiscal responsibility to the local government as was previously done with the Hayden Act which ultimately ended up costing the state in excess of \$25 million each year after the City of Los Angeles sued and prevailed in court. If the ultimate fiscal responsibility lies with the local government it should up to them to enact their own ordinances without the legislature's involvement.

Further, SB 250 violates pet owner property rights granted to Californians by both the federal and state constitutions. This bill is unreasonable as it potentially defines all pet owners as "irresponsible"; subject to fines and having their pets sterilized as mandated by the state. Upon receiving one animal-related code violation, local Animal Control agencies have the right to revoke and deny your license to own an intact animal in California *for the rest of your life*. This bill if it were to become law would eliminate working dogs such as those utilized for law enforcement, service dogs and search and rescue.

This bill's claims of substantial shelter population reductions and decreasing euthanasia are contrary to documented historical facts where these types of bills have been implemented. The shelter populations and euthanasia will increase, creating more costly enforcement and budget shortfalls for local governments. The IWCA-LC along with the AKC continues to oppose this bill as it will penalize responsible dog owners and breeders. We strongly support efforts to educate the public about responsible dog ownership to ensure that all dogs receive the care, love and attention they deserve.

The IWCA-LC on behalf of the IWCA membership, many of whom are residents of California, respectfully urges you to **vote 'NO' when SB 250** is brought to a vote.

Respectfully submitted,

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Legislative Committee
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