



Irish Wolfhound Club of America, Inc.

June 29, 2009
Senate Committee on Public Safety

Subject: **OPPOSE AB 241 as Amended 6/23/2009**
VOTE 'NO' ON AB 241

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 oppose AB 241 in its current form as it's a misguided bill containing unenforceable, arbitrary numerical limitations and biased requirements that do nothing to improve animal welfare and do not begin to address the underlying issues of responsible ownership and proper animal husbandry. Responsible breeders will be driven out of business, while a loophole in the law allows dogs which are imported from Mexico to be sold from cars and the backs of vans in parking lots.

This bill would prohibit anyone who sells dogs or cats to the public or at wholesale from owning, possessing, controlling or having charge or custody of more than a combination of 50 intact dogs and cats. That number or any other numerical limit has no bearing on anyone's ability to maintain their animals in humane, healthy conditions. Some people are unable to manage even one pet; while other people take excellent care of 100 to 200 or more animals because they have the resources to do so.

Further, this bill requires owners to sterilize, sell, transfer or relinquish animals above the cap and empowers peace officers, humane officers or animal control officers to seize animals of those in violation without a warrant. This bill strips animal owners of constitutional protections against warrantless search & seizure enjoyed by every other citizen in our country. In effect, AB 241 creates a class of criminals while only offense is to have more than 50 animals, even though in most cases, those animals will be kept in healthy, humane conditions. Moreover, where are those excess animals that are seized going to go? They will just fill up our shelters, instead of being perfectly well cared for in their own homes and kennels.

The IWCA and IWCA-LC support enforceable and reasonable laws that protect the welfare and health of dogs and owners who take their responsibilities seriously. We believe animal health and welfare concerns can be addressed by utilizing California's state animal cruelty laws as well as local nuisance ordinances.

The IWCA-LC on behalf of the IWCA membership, many of whom are residents of California, respectfully urges you to **vote 'NO' when AB 241** is brought to a vote.

Respectfully submitted,

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Legislative Committee
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