



Irish Wolfhound Club of America, Inc.

13 April 2009

The Honorable Senator Michael S. Bennett  
Chair: Senate Community Affairs Committee

Subject: **OPPOSE Florida SB 2002: 'An Act Relating to Commercial Dog Breeding'**

Dear Chairman John M. Nutting and Committee Members;

I am writing on behalf of the Irish Wolfhound Club of America (IWCA) Legislative Committee. The IWCA is a non-profit organization and a member of the American Kennel Club.

The IWCA is opposed to Florida SB 2002. Florida SB 2002, as currently proposed, is a misguided bill, containing unreasonable, biased requirements and regulations that are not based on proven animal husbandry practices, nor does it improve the welfare of animals. Areas of concern include:

- Establishing the definition of a 'Commercial Breeder' based on the number of dogs/intact dogs is not based on any proven animal husbandry practices. Numbers neither equate to the level of care a dog or cat receives nor provide a reasonable parameter for defining a 'breeding kennel'.
- Specifications, no matter how detailed, do not ensure the humane care and welfare of any animal, regardless of the number of animals in question. Kennel inspections cannot ensure the daily care and welfare of an animal, regardless of how many animals there are in a 'location'.
- Specifying and restricting the age range for breeding and frequency again, is arbitrary and fails to ensure or improve the welfare of the animals. Some breeds mature early and can be responsibly bred by 18 months, others mature late and it is recommended that they not be bred before 24 months to permit bone structure, etc, so growth plates and bone structure is firmly established. Some breeds are veterans well before 8 years of age and, in general, should not be bred. It is considered responsible husbandry in many breeds to not breed more frequently than every 18 to 24 months.
- The provision for 'warrantless' search by an animal control officer or other authorized public health or safety official based on some complaint (unknown to the owner) or simply the officer's 'initiative' based on an 'alleged' complaint. Search of a private residence (or any premise) should be based on the establishment of 'probable cause' and a warrant issued.
- This bill, as proposed, does not address the problem of irresponsible breeders, but with its definitions and numerical approach to targeting individuals, it severely limits the rights of responsible breeders.

As such, the IWCA, on behalf of its membership, many of whom are residents of Florida, respectfully urges you to vote "NO" when Florida SB 2002 comes before the Senate Community Affairs Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

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Legislative Committee  
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Cc: Senate Community Affairs Committee

Sent via FAX/email:

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