



Irish Wolfhound Club of America, Inc.

February 15, 2009
The Honorable Senator Martinez
Chairman, Licensed Activities Committee
409 Capitol
Springfield, IL 62706
Sent via email

Subject: **OPPOSE** Illinois SB 0053 / Licensing – Dog Breeder

Dear Chairman Martinez and Committee Members

I am writing on behalf of the Irish Wolfhound Club of America.

The IWCA is in opposition to SB 0053. SB 0053, 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.

SB 0053 would classify every breeder in Illinois with 3 or more intact females in the state as a commercial entity subjecting them to licensing, impossible kennel regulations, invasive inspections inside their homes, excessive record keeping and reporting, and require fingerprinting and criminal background checks in order to obtain a license. A breeder who is not in compliance or does not meet compliance would have the license revoked and has 7 days to dispose of the dogs either by surrendering the dogs to animal control or having them euthanized by a veterinarian.

Illinois dog breeders owning 6 or more dogs are already licensed under either the IL Animal Welfare Act or the USDA AWA. The requirement for licensing at 3 is extreme and unnecessary. Laws against animal cruelty and neglect are already in place. These should be enforced in lieu of enacting new regulations. SB 0053 provides no additional impact on substandard kennels as purported by its supporters. Existing regulation, if enforced, can ensure sanitary and humane environments for dog breeding facilities. Under current law, animal control authorities have the power to investigate suspected animal cruelty and we strongly support enforcement of those laws. Concentrating animal control efforts on dogs whose behavior demonstrates that they are a problem for the community, and investigating credible animal cruelty complaints would be a much better use of taxpayer funds.

As such, the IWCA on behalf of its more than 800 members, many of whom are residents of Illinois, respectfully urges you to vote "NO" when SB 0053 comes before the Illinois Senate Licensed Activities Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

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cc: Illinois Senate Licensed Activities Committee
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