



Irish Wolfhound Club of America, Inc.

13 April 2009

The Honorable: Senator John M. Nutting and Representative Wendy Pieh

Chair: Joint Committee on Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry

Subject: **OPPOSE Maine LD 964: 'An Act Pertaining to the Breeding and Selling of Dogs and Cats'**

Dear Chairman John M. Nutting and Committee Members;

I am writing in 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 Maine LD 964. Maine LD 964, as currently proposed, is a confusing bill, containing 'undefined' requirements and regulations as well as nebulous and/or contradictory 'definitions'. Areas of concern include:

- 'Breeding Kennel' is defined as 'a location where 5 or more adult female dogs....capable of breeding are kept and some ... offspring are offered for sale.'. The definition then goes on to provide some 'exclusions' unless the owner places 16 or more dogs or cats within a calendar year. As such, many of those 'activities' identified as 'exclusions', are not 'excluded'. Numbers neither equate to the level of care a dog or cat receives (kennel inspections which must meet minimum standards - undefined) nor provide a reasonable parameter for defining a 'breeding kennel'.
- 'Seller' is defined as 'the owner or operator of a breeding kennel'.... However, it is then further defined to include 'the owner or keeper of a cat or dog that advertises for sale, sells or exchanges for value more that one dog or cat in calendar year'.
- 'Kennel' is defined, then it is stated 'The sale or exchange of one litter of puppies within a 12 month period alone does not constitute the operation of a kennel'. However, there is no associated clarification to differentiate the definitions.
- The applicant must state the 'number of female dogs...capable of breeding' at the time a license is issued. This may very well change over a year. Thus the owner would be in violation of the conditions of the issued license and subject to license revocation, suspension, or refusal to renew a license.
- Standards (minimum), 'rules' (etc.) are not defined. As such, a compliant facility could be found non-compliant as the commissioner and/or department promulgate said criteria in the future.

As such, the IWCA, on behalf of its membership, many of whom are residents of Maine, respectfully urges you to vote "NO" when **Maine LD 964** comes before the Joint Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

Respectfully submitted,

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Cc: Joint Committee on Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry

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