



Irish Wolfhound Club of America, Inc.

8 April 2009

The Honorable Senator Paul Stanley

Chair: Senate Commerce, Labor & Agriculture Committee

Subject: **OPPOSE Tennessee SB 258: "Commercial Breeder Act"**

Dear Chairman Stanley 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 Tennessee S.B. 258. Tennessee S.B. 258 as currently proposed, is a misguided bill, containing unreasonable requirements and regulations. Areas of concern include:

- Commercial breeder means any person who possesses or maintains twenty (20) or more adult female dogs in whole or in part for the purpose of the sale of their offspring as companion animals. If even one litter of puppies were bred, licensing would be required. Numerical limits should not be used as the basis of legislation. Numbers do not equate to the level of care a dog or cat receives.
- The license of any 'commercial breeder' may be suspended or revoked by the commissioner for any violation of this bill or any rule promulgated by the department now or in the future.
- The commissioner shall issue rules and regulations requiring licensed commercial breeders to permit inspection of their animals and records at reasonable hours upon request by legally constituted law enforcement agencies. Again, breeders must open homes for inspection that has no criteria.
- Enforcement of existing tax law and animal welfare laws are sufficient. New laws are unnecessary. SB258 also requires excessive reporting to the state, which the state in these economically hard times can ill afford.
- The bill would allow the state to outsource some animal control work to other outside animal organizations. Outside organizations should not be governing private citizens.

As such, the IWCA, on behalf of its membership, many of whom are residents of Tennessee, respectfully urges you to vote "NO" when SB 258 comes before the Senate Commerce, Labor & Agriculture Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Munroe White
Irish Wolfhound Club of America, Inc.
Legislative Committee
2113 Star View Drive
Livermore, CO 80536

Sent via FAX: 512) 463-1260

cc: **Senate Commerce, Labor & Agriculture Committee**

Sent via FAX:

Senator Paul Stanley (R-Memphis, District 31)
Phone (615) 741-3036 / Fax (615) 741-1005
sen.paul.stanley@capitol.tn.gov

Senator Dewayne Bunch (R-Cleveland, District 9)
Phone (615) 741-3730 / Fax (615) 253-0243
sen.dewayne.bunch@capitol.tn.gov

Senator Charlotte Burks (D-Monterey, District 15)
Nashville Phone (615) 741-3978 / Fax (615) 741-8744
sen.charlotte.burks@capitol.tn.gov

Senator Jack Johnson (R-Franklin, District 23)
Nashville Phone (615) 741-2495 / Fax (615) 253-0321
sen.jack.johnson@capitol.tn.gov

Senator Bill Ketron (R-Murfreesboro, District 13)
Nashville Phone (615) 741-6853 / Fax (615) 741-7200
sen.bill.ketron@capitol.tn.gov

Senator Reginald Tate (D-Memphis, District 33)
Nashville Phone (615) 741-2509 / Fax (615) 253-0167
sen.reginald.tate@capitol.tn.gov

Sent via email:

Senator Mae Beavers (R-Mt. Juliet, District 17)
Nashville Phone (615) 741-2421
sen.mae.beavers@capitol.tn.gov

Senator Tim Burchett (R-Knoxville, District 7)
Nashville Phone (615) 741-1766
sen.tim.burchett@capitol.tn.gov

Senator Eric Stewart (D-Belvidere, District 14)
Nashville Phone (615) 741-6694
sen.eric.stewart@capitol.tn.gov