



Irish Wolfhound Club of America, Inc.

October 9, 2008

SENATOR Anthony W. Petruccelli
Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government

Room 413-B
State House
Boston, MA 02133
Sent via email: Anthony.Petruccelli@state.ma.us

Subject: **Oppose House Bill 5092, An Act Relative to Animals**

Dear Chairman Petruccelli:

I am writing on behalf of the Irish Wolfhound Club of America Legislative Committee (hereinafter referred to as the IWCA and the IWCA-LC). The IWCA is the national club representing Irish wolfhound owners and breeders and is supported by 14 regional Irish wolfhound clubs. We ask you to table HB 5092 for the reasons stated below.

House Bill 5092 (HB 5092), purported as a replacement of House Bill 1948 (A Petition Relative to Potentially Dangerous and Vicious Dogs), is not a 'Dangerous and Vicious' dog bill. Some of the most egregious provisions inserted in HB 5092 include (but are not limited to):

- Mandatory Spaying and Neutering of dogs at (or over) the age of 12 months: current scientific thought is that altering dogs, especially at a young age, actually contributes to behavioral problems and can increase aggression - thus, this legislation would actually result in the opposite effect from what it is intended.
- An annual \$500 'intact permit' for each dog that is not sterilized. Eligibility requirements for the permit are virtually impossible to meet, incomplete, discriminatory and presupposes an unreasonable level of knowledge of the canine breeds by law enforcement officials.
- Establishment of unreasonable nuisance laws that can result in the forced sterilization, banishment, or euthanasia of dogs. The legislation strictly limits the right of appeal by requiring a dog owner to prove the citation was unreasonable or in bad faith. A magistrate may, or may not, grant a hearing. There is no provision for appeal. This, in itself, is counter to a very basic premise of our legal system: 'innocent until proved guilty' becomes 'guilty until the accused proves his/her innocence' under this legislation and that assumes the magistrate grants a hearing, otherwise the verdict is automatically 'guilty' with no recourse.
- Eliminating the practice of humane tethering, without exception.
- Grant broad powers to every municipality to ban or restrict specific breeds of dogs, and to seize, ban or kill any dog deemed to be dangerous.

As such, the IWCA, on behalf of its membership, many of whom are residents of Massachusetts, respectfully urges you to take no further action on HB 5092.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Munroe White
Irish Wolfhound Club of America, Inc.
Legislative Committee
2113 Star View Drive
Livermore, CO 80536
(970) 498-9117
FAX: (970) 498-9117
Email: Nancystuff@wildblue.net

cc: Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government

Sent via fax/email:

SENATOR ANTHONY W. PETRUCCELLI

Room 413-B, State House
Boston, MA 02133
Telephone: 617-722-1634
E-Mail: Anthony.Petrucelli@state.ma.us

SENATOR PATRICIA D. JEHLLEN

Room 513, State House
Boston, MA 02133
Telephone: 617-722-1578
Fax: 617-722-1117
E-Mail: Patricia.Jehlen@state.ma.us

SENATOR STEVEN A. BADDOUR

Room 208, State House
Boston, MA 02133
Telephone: (617) 722-1604
E-Mail: Steven.Baddour@state.ma.us

SENATOR SUSAN C. FARGO

Room 504, State House
Boston, MA 02133
Telephone: (617) 722-1572
E-Mail: Susan.Fargo@state.ma.us

SENATOR RICHARD R. TISEI*

Room 308, State House
□ Boston, MA 02133
Telephone: (617) 722-1206
Fax: (617) 722-1063
E-Mail: Richard.Tisei@state.ma.us

REPRESENTATIVE VINCENT A. PEDONE □

Room 540, State House
Boston, MA 02133
Telephone: 617-722-2090
Facsimile: 617-626-0551
E-Mail: Rep.VincentPedone@hou.state.ma.us

REPRESENTATIVE MARTIN J. WALSH

Room 540, State House
Boston, MA 02133
Telephone: 617-722-2090
E-Mail: Rep.MartinWalsh@hou.state.ma.us

REPRESENTATIVE MATTHEW C.PATRICK

Room 540, State House
Boston, MA 02133
Telephone: 617-722-2090
Facsimile: 617-722-2848
E-Mail: Rep.MatthewPatrick@hou.state.ma.us
E-Mail: repmattp@cape.com

REPRESENTATIVE STEPHEN R. CANESSA

Room 443, State House
Boston, MA 02133
Telephone: 617-722-2460
Facsimile: 617-626-0839
E-Mail: Rep.StephenCanessa@Hou.State.MA.US

REPRESENTATIVE DENIS E. GUYER

State House, Room 443
Boston, MA 02133
Telephone: 617-722-2460
E-Mail: Rep.DenisGuyer@Hou.State.MA.US

REPRESENTATIVE SARAH K. PEAKE

Room 473F, State House
Boston, MA 02133
Telephone: 617-722-2210
Facsimile: 617-626-0551
E-Mail: Rep.SarahPeake@Hou.State.MA.US

REPRESENTATIVE JAMES J. O'DAY

Room 39, State House
Boston, MA 02133
Telephone: 617-722-2014
Facsimile: 617-626-0884
E-Mail: Rep.JamesO'Day@Hou.State.MA.US

REPRESENTATIVE PAUL MCMURTRY

Room 443, State House
Boston, MA 02133
Telephone: 617-722-2460
Facsimile: 617-722-2353
E-Mail: Rep.PaulMcMurtry@hou.state.ma.us

REPRESENTATIVE SEAN GARBALLEY

Room 134, State House
Boston, MA 02133
Telephone: (617) 722-2400
Facsimile: 617-722-2850
E-Mail: Rep.SeanGarballey@Hou.State.MA.US

REPRESENTATIVE F. JAY BARROWS*

Room 542, State House
Boston, MA 02133
Telephone: 617-722-2488
Facsimile: 617-722-2390
E-Mail: Rep.FJayBarrows@Hou.State.MA.US

REPRESENTATIVE TODD M. SMOLA*

Room 156, State House
Boston, MA 02133
Telephone: 617-722-2240
E-Mail: Rep.ToddSmola@Hou.State.MA.US