



Irish Wolfhound Club of America, Inc.

21 June 2009

The Honorable Governor of Tennessee: Phil Bredesen
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Fax: 615.532.9711
Phil.Bredesen@tn.gov

Subject: **OPPOSE Tennessee HB 386 & SB 258: "Commercial Breeder Act" – Amendment Pending**

Dear Governor P. Bredesen;

I am, once again, 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 Tennessee H.B. 386 & SB 258. These bills as currently proposed, are misguided legislations, containing unreasonable requirements and regulations. The IWCA agrees with the AKC in its support of reasonable and enforceable laws that protect the welfare and health of dogs without restricting the rights of owners and breeders who take their responsibilities seriously. Areas of concern in the current bill continue to 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. The number of dogs kept by an individual has nothing to do with the quality of care one can give. Abuse/neglect can happen with 2 dogs or 20. There are already abuse/neglect laws in Tennessee that effectively address these issues.
- The license of any 'commercial breeder' may be suspended or revoked by the commissioner for any violation of this bill or any rule promulgated (i.e. undefined at this time) 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. □ HB 386 and SB 258 also require 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, respectfully urges you to veto 'HB 386/SB 258'.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Munroe White
Irish Wolfhound Club of America, Inc.
Legislative Committee
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