



Irish Wolfhound Club of America, Inc.

March 24, 2010
Senate Public Safety Committee

Subject: **OPPOSE SB 1277**
VOTE 'NO' ON SB 1277

Dear Senators:

I am writing on behalf of the Irish Wolfhound Club of America (IWCA) and the IWCA Legislative Committee (IWCA-LC). The IWCA is the parent club for Irish Wolfhound owner's nation-wide, as well as the anchor for 14 Regional and Local clubs. Two of the oldest of those regional clubs are located in California, thereby giving this breed a substantial California presence with a strong vested interest in the activities of its elected officials.

The IWCA and IWCA-LC oppose SB 1277 as it's a flawed piece of legislation that creates another state bureaucracy which cannot be fixed with any subsequent amendments. We therefore request to be included in the numerical individual **opposition** count for any Bill Analysis. Additionally, we request that our **opposition** not be withdrawn except by my written consent.

Senator Florez may have had good intentions; however, he has authored an ill conceived bill whose potential for creating unwarranted hardship for innocent animal owners is virtually infinite. Animal owners who spay or castrate their animals are accused of abuse, but even more frequently, animal owners who do not spay or castrate their animals are accused of abuse or at least neglect. Animal owners who leave their dogs outside tethered to trolley lines (giving the dogs 250 square feet or more to move around in) are considered cruel by some people, but animal owners who keep their dogs in crates when the owners are not there to supervise are considered cruel by other accusers. The list of animal husbandry practices that animal owners disagree on is endless and fluid. The only certainty is that, like the sex offender registries, an animal abuse registry is sure to be governed by a "J'accuse" ambiance that can be depended on to do exactly nothing to prevent or minimize incidents of genuine abuse of animals.

The sex offender registries have not only created unintended costs and consequences; they also have a high error rate estimated at 25% for the listings. One such case is a man's home was broken into and he was severely beaten requiring hospitalization due to a mistaken home address listed in the sex offender registry. The man was not a sex offender. Who will pay for any unintended consequences when the animal rights extremists harass or attack people living at addresses listed in an animal abuse registry? Will the state pick up the tab when innocent victims are mistakenly harassed, attacked, or murdered?

Further, SB 1277 will put an additional tax burden on the poor by mandating a new pet food tax per pound of an undetermined amount to fund the animal abuse registry. Californians are already struggling putting food on the table for their families and do not need any additional tax burdens to make it unaffordable to keep their beloved family pets.

We do agree that animal abusers should be dealt with harshly when they come before the court system. In addition to the harm caused to innocent animals, studies have shown it can be a possible indicator for future violent behavior towards humans. Some animal rights organizations currently have animal abuse registries, which contain the names of animal abusers and the nature of the crimes. We recognize, however reluctantly, the right of private groups to establish registries that contain information that is already a public record. We do not agree that creating another state bureaucracy that California can ill afford, anyway, is the way to go.

The IWCA-LC on behalf of the IWCA membership, many of whom are residents of California, respectfully urges you to **vote 'NO' when SB 1277** is brought to a vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Scotia Colleen Brosnan
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Legislative Committee
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