



Irish Wolfhound Club of America, Inc.

April 22, 2009

Peter Detwiler, Staff Director, Senate Local Government Committee

Subject: **OPPOSE SB 250 as Amended 4/21/2009**
VOTE 'NO' ON SB 250

Dear Peter Detwiler, Senator Wiggins and Senate Members;

Again I am writing on behalf of the Irish Wolfhound Club of America (IWCA) and the IWCA Legislative Committee (IWCA-LC). The IWCA was established on 2 October, 1926 as the parent club for Irish Wolfhounds nation-wide with 14 Regional and Local Clubs. As a member of the American Kennel Club, the IWCA encourages the highest ethical breeding standards and responsible ownership of the Irish Wolfhound.

The IWCA and IWCA-LC concur with the AKC's opposition to SB 250. Existing state law already requires owners of intact animals pay a license fee that is at least double that to license a sterilized animal (Food and Agricultural Code Section 30804.5); and provides for enhanced and graduated fines for owners whose intact dogs are impounded (Food and Agricultural Code Section 30804.7). These statutes are sufficient to incentivize owners to sterilize their animals and to address animal control concerns with specific intact animals who are impounded repeatedly.

A city in Maryland increased its fee for neutered animals twofold and threefold for intact animals. The drop in numbered licensed was such that two years later, they rescinded the increases. It took five years for the city to recoup the number of licensed dogs they had before the increase.

Further, the term "custodian" is used throughout the bill and is not defined in the legislation or within the existing Food and Agricultural Code. This term is simply another word for "guardian." The AKC and IWCA support the use of the term "owner" rather than "guardian" when referring to the keeping of dogs. Both the AKC and IWCA believe the term "guardian" may reduce the legal status and value of dogs as property and thereby restrict the rights of owners, veterinarians and government agencies to protect and care for dogs. We strongly support efforts to educate the public about responsible dog ownership to ensure that all dogs receive the care, love and attention they deserve.

The IWCA-LC on behalf of the IWCA membership, many of whom are residents of California, respectfully urges you to **vote 'NO' when SB 250** is brought to a vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Scotia Colleen Brosnan
Irish Wolfhound Club of America, Inc.
Legislative Committee
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