



Irish Wolfhound Club of America, Inc.

August 16, 2008

The Honorable Senator Gloria Romero

Subject: Oppose Assembly Bill 1634 as amended August 12, 2008
VOTE 'NO' ON AB 1634, 'The Responsible Pet Ownership Act'

Sent via FAX: 916-445-0485

Dear Senator Romero and Senate Members;

I am writing on behalf of the Irish Wolfhound Club of America (IWCA) and the IWCA Legislative Committee (IWCA-LC) to request, once again, a **NO vote on AB 1634** as amended 12 August 2008.

Although CA AB 1634 Amendment 11 addresses some of the problems inherent in prior versions, it fails to rectify the de-facto premise that ownership of intact pets/animals is illegal. The amended bill states: "a person who owns or possesses either an unlicensed or an intact but licensed dog or cat within California, as specified, may be cited, ..." As such, it continues to promulgate discriminatory practices directed at owners of intact animals and the concept that responsible animal ownership is predicated primarily on the spaying/castrating of all dogs and cats.

The state of California already has state and local laws in place to address instances of genuine public safety and health risks associated with dogs and cats. Furthermore, a stated intent of AB 1634 is to increase licensing compliance. In California, cats are not required to be licensed, but under CA AB 1634 cats would be subject to mandatory spay/castration.

Accidents, natural disasters, malicious actions (etc) all occur daily and may contribute to placing a pet in jeopardy of prosecution and ultimately the subject of a mandated spay or castration verdict. In California, particularly, many dogs and cats have inadvertently fled from their homes during earthquakes, flash floods, and wildfires, just as hurricanes, snowstorms, and tornados in other places have resulted in pets being separated from their owners and homes. Under AB 1634, all these dogs and cats may be ultimately subject to compulsory spaying or castration regardless of the fact that neither the owner nor affected pet was responsible or could control the situation.

As such, the IWCA-LC, on behalf of the IWCA membership, many of whom are residents of California, respectfully urges you to vote 'NO' when AB 1634 (as amended on 12 August 2008) is brought to vote.

Respectfully submitted,

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