



Irish Wolfhound Club of America, Inc.

August 8, 2008  
The Honorable Senator Tom Torlakson  
Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol, Room 5050  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Sent via fax: (916) 445-2527

Subject: Oppose Assembly Bill 1634 as amended August 5, 2008

Dear Chairman Torlakson and Committee Members

I am writing on behalf of the Irish Wolfhound Club of America Legislative Committee (herein-after referred to as the IWCA and the 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.

I am writing for the IWCA-LC in opposition to AB 1634 as amended 05 August 2008. AB 1634, as currently proposed, is a misguided bill, open to misinterpretation and, therefore, subject to abusive implementation. It fails to provide reasonable 'Due Process' for the accused even though no substantiated complaint is provided. Any complaint (un-substantiated, no witnesses required) is sufficient to convict thus providing the defendant with no opportunity for arbitration or a hearing and, therefore, no provision for defense or counter-allegations. The 'defendant' (owner of the accused pet/animal) is assumed 'guilty' and therefore, punitive action in the form of forced pet/animal sterilization may result for any 'alleged' offense, germane or otherwise. The de-facto implication of this misguided law is that intact animals are illegal. This premise has much broader consequences than forcing sterilization of pets for virtually any or no reason.

As the California DOF noted in its' 1 July 2008 analysis, this bill may be expected to result in more animals being abandoned or surrendered to public animal control facilities, thus significantly increasing the demands on the General Fund and associated cost to the taxpayers. Similarly, increased demands on the animal control facilities will lead to further euthanasia of animals due to over-crowded conditions.

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 comes before the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

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