

Irish Wolfhound Club of America, Inc.

August 18, 2010

Subject: **OPPOSE SB 250 as Amended August, 2010**
VOTE 'NO' ON SB 250

Dear Senators and Assembly Members:

I am writing on behalf of the Irish Wolfhound Club of America (IWCA) and the IWCA Legislative Committee (IWCA-LC). The IWCA is the 700-member parent club for Irish Wolfhound owners nationwide, 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 continue to oppose SB 250 as it's a flawed piece of legislation 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 Additionally, we request that our **opposition** not be withdrawn except by written consent.

Existing state law already requires owners of intact animals to 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 motivate owners to sterilize their animals and to address animal control concerns with specific intact animals who are impounded repeatedly.

SB 250 would be difficult and costly to enforce. Further, SB 250 violates pet owner property rights granted to Californians by both the federal and state constitutions. This bill is unreasonable as it potentially defines all pet owners as "irresponsible"; subject to fines and having their pets sterilized as mandated by the state. In fact, the use of the word, "custodian", instead of the usual "owner" already determines that the sponsor's intent in SB 250 is to declare all California dog owners incompetent to manage their dogs without state supervision. The proof of this is the bill's provision that, upon receiving one animal-related code violation, local Animal Control agencies have the right to revoke and deny your license to own an intact animal in California **for the rest of your life**. If this bill were to become law, it would eliminate invaluable working dogs such as law enforcement, assistance, search and rescue, and herding dogs, because these dogs do most of their work off-lead, and by definition, SB 250 prohibits off-lead activity across the board.

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,


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Legislative Committee
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