

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

I am writing you today because I am concerned about Assembly Bill 1634, a measure that would require mandatory spaying/neutering of dogs and cats over six months of age unless the owner qualifies for and purchases an intact animal permit.

AB 1634 is a major threat to dog shows and purebred dogs in California. AB 1634 would result in significant loss of revenue from dog and cat shows. Registries such as American Kennel Club and Cat Fancy of America conduct ongoing research regarding the economic benefits of our events, and their estimates conclude that these exhibitors contribute nearly \$100 million annually to local California economies. This is the contribution from dog shows and does not include the money spent on vets, groomers, handlers, supplies, pet food, etc. AB 1634 would make California unfriendly to people wanting to spend money in the state and they may decide to hold their events elsewhere.

Mandatory spay/neuter is an ineffective solution to animal control problems because it fails to address the heart of the issue—irresponsible ownership. These laws are extremely difficult to enforce and can be evaded by irresponsible animal owners by not licensing their pets. It will hurt responsible owners/breeders like me who raise healthy, well cared-for dogs and work to ensure that these puppies are placed with responsible owners.

Responsible owners who are already complying with local animal control laws will be unfairly punished by AB 1634, while irresponsible owners will continue to cause problems for the community and local shelters. Concentrating animal control efforts on dogs whose behavior demonstrates that they are a problem for the community would be a much better use of taxpayer funds, along with public education to promote responsible pet ownership.

I would ask that you veto AB 1634 should it be forwarded for your signature.

Sincerely,

John Smith