

Senate Local Government Committee
ATTN: Peter Detwiler
Senator Gloria Negrete McLeod, Chair
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5046
Sacramento, CA 956184

RE: Oppose AB 1634 as Amended June 27th

Dear Mr. Chair:

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.

Although I do not live in California, I have traveled to the state with my intact dogs to participate in dog shows. AB 1634 may currently provide an exemption for non-Californian fanciers who are attending shows and events if the owner can prove that the cat or dog is temporarily in California for training, showing or any other legitimate reason as determined by the local jurisdiction. However, this would be a difficult law to enforce and would make me inclined to bring my dogs and business elsewhere if it were to pass.

(Personalize here – What shows/clusters have you attended in California? How much money did you spend on hotels, food, gas, entry fees, etc.? Tell about yourself as a dog owner, breeder and fancier. How many years have you been involved with dogs? What breeds have you owned or shown? Do you compete in any other activities with your dog – Obedience, Rally, Agility...Have any of your dogs achieved a Championship? Won a prestigious award?

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 respectfully ask that you support responsible owners and breeders by opposing AB 1634.

Sincerely,

John Smith