



THE CAT FANCIERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.

World's Largest Registry of Pedigreed Cats

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September 17, 2009

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Fax: 916-558-3160

Re: AB 1122, Animal Abuse: Sale of Live Animals, **Request for VETO**

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger;

I am writing on behalf of The Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc. (CFA)¹ to urge you to **VETO** AB 1122. The bill would have devastating effects on pet and other animal events throughout California. The exemption for cat shows, written without any input from the cat fancy, is illusory.

AB 1122 would make it a crime for any person to sell, display, or offer for sale a live animal under specified circumstances. Most of us agree that pets should not be sold out of cars in parking lots or on public streets. However, AB 1122 is overly broad and includes licensed cat shows, dog shows and other legitimate animal events. Amendments to the bill, without any input from the stakeholders, created an exemption to allow sales at cat shows only if ALL of 5 conditions were met. Some, such as a permit from the city or county where the show is held, may not be possible. Cat shows are sanctioned by national organizations such as CFA². Few, if any of California's 58 counties or 480 cities currently issues permits specifically for cat shows. The requirement that "Each and every participant in the show complies with all federal, state, and local animal welfare and animal control laws" would be impractical (if not impossible) for a cat show to enforce with entries from all over the country and even overseas.

¹ *The Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc. (CFA) is a non-profit organization founded in 1906. Part of CFA's mission is to enhance the well-being of all cats. CFA participants, who breed and show pedigreed cats, are active in cat health promotion, cat breed rescue, shelter support and other animal related programs throughout the world. CFA is a positive force that has helped to educate the public about proper cat care, spay/neuter and responsible pet ownership. CFA is proud of its self-regulation programs to encourage high standards of care for cats in multi-cat breeding environments. A voluntary "Cattery of Excellence" program and breeder mentoring program are part of ongoing efforts to ensure responsible breeding and good cattery environments.*

² *CFA licensed 356 cat shows during last show season. California is the home to many CFA cat shows including the San Diego Cat Fanciers' Show each January. For the 2008-2009 show season the San Diego cat show was the 5th largest CFA show in the world, bringing revenue into the local economy.*

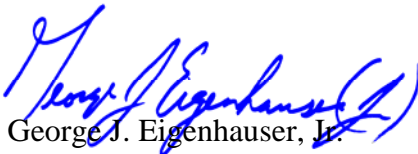
AB 1122 is unnecessary and fails to address the well being of the animals. Existing laws prohibit cruelty to cats and dogs and make it a misdemeanor to permit an animal to be kept without proper care and attention. For example, Penal Code § 597.1 already provides in part that: "(a) Every owner, driver, or keeper of any animal who permits the animal to be in any building, enclosure, lane, street, square, or lot of any city, county, city and county, or judicial district without proper care and attention is guilty of a misdemeanor. ..."

The CFA Breeder Code of Ethics dictates that breeders who register with CFA place kittens directly with the new pet owner or in a manner that will enable contact with the ultimate owner to provide on-going education and advice. These breeders strive to place healthy kittens and provide proper care to their new families. CFA wants consumers to have a direct one on one relationship with their pet's breeder for questions, advice and guidance. We agree with the author of AB 1122 that sales of puppies and kittens from the roadside and without recourse back to the breeder are wrong. But if you prevent consumers from getting their pets at legitimate cat shows, dog shows and other animal events you send them into the arms of the very people this law was designed to eliminate!

The California Department of Finance bill analysis (copy enclosed) notes that AB 1122 has "unknown costs" and they oppose the bill.

AB 1122 would have devastating effects on pet and other animal events throughout California. By criminalizing the sale of cats at cat shows, or dogs at dog shows, where the breeders are held to such high standards, only encourages the "grey market" sale of pets that this bill was intended to regulate. Local governments would incur unknown costs implementing the provisions of this bill. We urge you to VETO AB 1122.

Very truly yours,


George J. Eigenhauser, Jr.
CFA Legislative Coordinator

Enclosure: Department of Finance Bill Analysis
CC: Pamela DelaBar, CFA President
Allene Tartaglia, CFA Executive Director