

*I have permission from Dr. Charles A. Hjerpe, Emeritus Professor at University of California Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine, to share his letter to the California Veterinary Medical Association ..... Please distribute this powerful and excellent letter far and wide, ASAP!!!*  
*- Sharon Vanderlip, D.V.M.*

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Sent: Sunday, May 27, 2007 10:18 AM  
Subject: AB 1634

To President Ron Faoro and the California Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) Board of Governors:

Dear Dr. Faoro and CVMA Governors:

I hope that CVMA will learn something from the mess you have created by writing and sponsoring AB 1634. The leadership of your organization which, supposedly, represents the interests of all veterinarians, helped to write a controversial bill in secret, without any input from rank and file CVMA membership, or any broad consultation with the animal lovers and their organizations that would be adversely impacted by the bill. The bill proposes to deprive more than half of the citizens of California of what they have come to believe, and have every right to believe, is a basic civil and constitutional right: that every citizen has the right to decide if they want to spay or neuter their animals and, if so, when they would like to do it. CVMA has jeopardized the reputation of the entire veterinary profession, by supporting a piece of legislation which has enraged millions of animal owners and promises to enrich one segment of the veterinary profession. Now that the legislation you have helped to create has been high-jacked by some of the most extreme elements in society, CVMA remains absolutely silent, aloof from the problems and concerns of "the huddled masses" and, seemingly, powerless or fearful to try to "fix" anything. Meanwhile, thousands of rank-and-file veterinarians and animal lovers are being forced to become involved in things that we hate doing: writing letters to politicians, rallying support from breed organizations, meeting with our elected representatives and attending legislative hearings. I am attaching two of the letters I have written, as they provide examples of the problems with the piece of legislation of which you are so proud.

The tragedy of this whole fiasco is that "it is all for naught". The evidence from past experiences with Mandatory Spay/Neuter Laws is that they make the problems worse, rather than better. As an example, I have copied (see below) some statistics from the web site of Save our Dogs (<http://www.saveourdogs.net/population.html>). There are plenty of other studies out there that have come to the same conclusion. You should have researched this whole issue more thoroughly, before you put the collective heads of the veterinary profession "on the chopping block".

Sincerely,  
Charles A. Hjerpe, DVM  
former CVMA member and emeritus professor of veterinary medicine, UC Davis