



THE CAT FANCIERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.

World's Largest Registry of Pedigreed Cats

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August 5, 2009

Senate Appropriations Committee
ATTN: Jacqueline Wong-Hernandez
State Capitol, Room 2206
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 241 as amended July 23, 2009 **OPPOSITION**
An act to add Section 597.8 to the Penal Code,
relating to animals.

Dear Ms. Wong-Hernandez;

I am writing on behalf of The Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc.¹ to express our opposition to AB 241 as amended on July 23, 2009. The bill is currently set for hearing on August 17, 2009 before the Appropriations Committee. The bill is unnecessary and local governments would incur unnecessary costs implementing the provisions of this bill. We are urging a no vote on AB 241 by the committee.

AB 241 is unnecessary and fails to address the well being of the animals. Existing California law makes it a misdemeanor to permit an animal to be kept without proper care and attention. Current law applies regardless of the number of intact animals kept at the premises. The quota of 50 intact adult animals is unrelated to the care and condition of the animals. The arbitrary limit on the number of animals, as well as the failure to define "adult" could lead to costly litigation.

Large scale breeders are already licensed and inspected by the USDA. This bill would create an unnecessary duplication of effort. This is hard to justify in view of the current economic crisis in California. Better results could be obtained through cooperation with the federal inspectors and enforcement of existing California and federal laws.

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.*

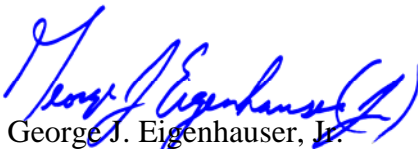
This bill actually undermines the goal of eliminating substandard kennels and catteries. By creating quotas on the number of intact animals AB 241 encourages more frequent breeding, inbreeding and other poor animal husbandry that may reduce the health of the animals produced. This could lead to an increase in health problems in the animals and more relinquishments at local shelters. This cost would be borne by local governments.

Supporters of AB 241 claim that "puppy mills" engage in overcrowding of animals, outdoor enclosures, female dogs bred continuously, and conditions of malnutrition, exposure, and lack of adequate veterinary care. All of these concerns could be addressed by enforcing existing law. NONE of these concerns are addressed by AB 241.

CFA encourages responsible breeding of pets and enforces our own mandatory inspection program for catteries producing more than 75 kittens per year. These inspections assure the animals are kept in appropriate conditions without neglect or abuse. AB 241 criminalizes numbers without regard to the condition in which the cats are kept. Limiting numbers encourages inbreeding and more frequent breeding of females which can lead to genetic and congenital problems and is harmful to the cats. This may lead to more health problems in pets and thus more cats and dogs euthanized in local shelters. During a time of economic and budget crisis California needs to focus on real solutions and not arbitrary quotas.

California's dogs and cats deserve the best quality of care, but AB 241 provides quotas and not real solutions. By doing so it indirectly discourages proper animal husbandry. This is both inhumane and costly. We urge a no vote on AB 241.

Very truly yours,


George J. Eigenhauser, Jr.
CFA Legislative Coordinator

CC: Senate Appropriations Committee members
Pamela DelaBar, CFA President
Allene Tartaglia, CFA Executive Director