



THE CAT FANCIERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.

World's Largest Registry of Pedigreed Cats

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Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Fax: 916-558-3160

Re: AB 241, dog and cat breeders, **Request for VETO**

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger;

I am writing on behalf of The Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc.¹ to urge you to **VETO** AB 241. This bill would prohibit all large-scale breeding of pets in California but would do nothing to improve the health or well being of the animals it purports to protect.

AB 241 would make it a criminal offense for anyone to possess 50 sexually intact "adult" cats or dogs (or both combined) *without regard to the quality of the care of the animals*. A large scale breeder with excellent conditions would be outlawed but a breeder within the quota of 50 intact animals is exempt. Current California law for the care of animals applies to **all** breeders regardless of numbers of intact animals. Large breeders are also licensed and inspected by the USDA. Better results could be obtained through cooperation with the federal inspectors and enforcement of existing California and federal laws.

The California Department of Finance bill analysis (copy enclosed) notes that AB 241 may increase costs as animals are seized, abandoned, or surrendered. Revenue would be decreased as large breeders are required to leave the state. The analysis also notes that: "*Using quantity to assess breeding operations ignores more meaningful indicators such as standards of care, conditions, staffing levels, and outcomes, none of which are addressed by this bill.*"

AB 241 actually undermines the goal of eliminating substandard kennels and catteries. By creating quotas on the number of intact animals this bill encourages more frequent breeding, inbreeding and other poor animal husbandry which may reduce the health of the animals produced. This could lead to

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.*

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.

Elimination of large breeders in California will not eliminate demand for puppies and kittens. California families will simply look elsewhere. This means pets will be imported from other states, or other countries, with no control over conditions under which the pets are raised. According to the Center for Disease Control as many as 300,000 puppies a year are already being imported into the United States. A joint Border Puppy Task Force in California estimated that 10,000 puppies illegally entered San Diego County from Mexico in just one year. Because of unregulated conditions for the imported pets there are concerns about zoonotic diseases such as rabies. For example, in June 2004 a puppy with rabies was imported into California from Thailand².

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. Limiting numbers encourages inbreeding and more frequent breeding of females leading to genetic and congenital problems and is harmful to the cats.

California's dogs and cats deserve the best quality of care but AB 241 provides arbitrary quotas and not real solutions. Elimination of large breeders in California will only lead to outsourcing pets with less control over the conditions under which the animals are raised and fewer choices for consumers. This is both inhumane and costly. We urge you to **VETO** AB 241.

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

² <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5739a3.htm>