



THE CAT FANCIERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.

World's Largest Registry of Pedigreed Cats

LEGISLATIVE ALERT

Issued: September 17, 2009

AB 1122 -- Animal Abuse: Sale of Live Animals CALIFORNIA

BRIEF SUMMATION: This bill would make it a criminal offense to sell, offer for sale, or give away a live animal on any street, highway, public right-of-way, parking lot, carnival, or boardwalk. Sales of cats/kittens at cat shows would be also prohibited unless certain conditions are all met, some of which may not be possible.

CURRENT STATUS: The bill has already passed BOTH houses of the California Legislature and is now ready for the Governor's action. **IMMEDIATE ACTION IS NEEDED** from clubs/organizations and individuals to call or write the Governor to urge him to veto this bill.

WHAT THIS LEGISLATION WILL MEAN TO YOU AND ARGUMENTS AGAINST THIS LEGISLATION:

AB 1122 has been amended several times. The amendments to the bill 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 since no such permitting process exists in most cities or counties. 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.

ACTION TO TAKE:

INDIVIDUALS/ORGANIZATIONS (clubs, rescue groups, etc.) must call or fax to Governor Schwarzenegger **immediately** to ask that he VETO this bill. He could act on it at any time. Contact information is included below.

- (1) If you are writing please FAX your letter to be sure it arrives quickly.
- 2) Reference the title - Re: AB 1122 requesting VETO
- 3) Begin your letter by stating that your club (state name) is OPPOSED to AB 1122 and you are asking the Governor to VETO the bill. If you are an out of state breed clubs with members in California, please be sure to note that fact.
- 4) Don't worry too much about substance; the goal is to express your opposition. One page is ideal – 2 pages are OK. Try to focus on the fiscal impact of this bill.
- 5) Put comments in your own words so the letters do not appear to be “form”. You may use the samples below - make only a few brief points.
- 6) Conclude your letter by again stating your opposition to the Bill; thank the Governor and again ask that he VETO AB 1122.

SUGGESTED POINTS (taken from previous CFA alert):

** 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. ..."

** AB 1122 is an unfunded mandate on local government. The implementation and enforcement of this bill, such as creating a "cat show" permitting process in 58 counties and 480 cities will be an unnecessary burden on local government. Once implemented, the investigations into the requirements for exemptions will take staff time and resources. It will only further burden the counties and municipalities and divert limited resources that would be better utilized elsewhere.

** AB 1122 could have unintended consequences, such as driving animal sales underground. Unregulated sales could create serious public health risks.

** AB 1122 contains exemptions for cat “show” sales but only if 5 “circumstances” exist. Some of these are so outlandish as to make the exemption meaningless. The requirement that each and every participant complies with every possible animal law would be impossible to ascertain or assure, rendering this entire exemption utterly meaningless.

** The California Department of Finance "... is opposed to this bill because it has unknown costs associated with the enforcement and implementation..."

Please feel free to quote liberally from the Department of Finance analysis. It will be posted on the CFA web site legislative page at: <http://www.cfa.org/exhibitors/alerts.html>

PLEASE NOTE: The Governor has not seen your previous letters to the legislature so it is acceptable to repeat arguments you may have used before.

PLANNED MEETINGS: None. This is the final step.

CONTACT LIST: Contact information for the Governor is listed below. Please note that the fax number is new. Instructions for navigating the Governor's automated phone system to log your opposition are included below. The automated phone line is on 24/7 and appears to accept calls from out of California.

Governor's Office:

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: 916-445-2841
Fax: 916-558-3160 (note new number)

To use the automated voicemail to express your opposition (you don't need to state your reason it is just counting numbers of calls for and against):

1. Call 916.445.2841
2. Press 1 for English
3. Press 2 for legislation and you will get options
4. Press 4 for AB1122
5. Press 2 to express your opposition to the bill