



## NAIA Trust for the Protection of Animals, Animal Owners and Animal Enterprises

*Supporting the People who Care for America's Animals*

May 9, 2007

Chairman Mark Leno  
California Assembly Committee on Appropriations  
Capitol Office  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0013

VIA FACSIMILE (916) 319-2113

Attn: Chuck Nicol, Committee Consultant - Please place this letter on the opposition list for AB 1634 California Healthy Pets Act

Dear Chairman Leno and Committee Members:

I am writing on the behalf of the California members of the National Animal Interest Alliance Trust (NAIA Trust) to express our opposition to the California Assembly Bill 1634, the "California Healthy Pets Act."

Founded in 1993, the NAIA Trust is a coalition of animal owners and organizations dedicated to animal welfare, animal health and wellbeing, responsible animal ownership, and maintaining the rights of citizens to responsibly keep and enjoy pets. We support reasonable laws that promote the well-being of animals and strongly oppose laws that ignore science and interfere with decisions that should be made by pet owners and their veterinarians.

The provisions of AB 1634 are unreasonable and unconstitutional, and will cause severe, unintended consequences if passed.

- AB 1634 will not lower animal control agency costs. Proponents of AB 1634 claim that it will save Californians money. In particular they suggest that it will reduce or eliminate the \$250 million dollars spent on animal control costs every year in California. However, a quick assessment of animal control expenses in major cities in California, Oregon and Washington counties where shelter impounds have decreased by as much as 70% over the last 25 years shows no corresponding decrease in budgetary expenses over the same period. Instead, these shelter budgets have kept pace with the cost of living just like other municipal agencies, increasing by as much as 400%.
- Enforcing this law would put an additional administrative burden on the local agencies costing those jurisdictions more money than they could ever collect in fees and fines.

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- AB 1634 will cause potential licensees to drop out of the system. If fees from breeders are seen as a funding source, this assumption needs to be reevaluated. Passage is far more likely to eliminate potential licensees from the market place than serve as a funding source for the program.
- This bill attempts to reduce the supply of dogs and cats bred in California but will have no effect on the demand for such pets. It will only shift the source of supply to out-of-state or out-of-country suppliers. This will cause money to leave the state and it will rob California consumers of the best source of pets available, the carefully bred and home-raised puppies and kittens produced by members of major kennel and cat associations such as the American Kennel Club and Cat Fanciers Association.
- Don't kill the goose that lays the golden egg. The citizens most likely to be adversely affected by AB 1634 are the members and registrants of American Kennel Club (AKC) and Cat Fanciers Association (CFA), the not-for-profit organizations whose events bring over \$100 million in tourism dollars to California's economy each year.
- The members of AKC and CFA volunteer their time and expertise year round to help the public make responsible choices in selecting, raising, training, socializing, permanently identifying, licensing and learning about how to become a responsible pet owner. They provide and fund rescue services, host microchip clinics and fund numerous animal welfare projects and California scholarships. Please keep in mind that if these volunteer services and contributions had to be replaced by government programs, a situation encouraged by AB 1634's overregulation of this community, the costs would be staggering.

The National Animal Interest Alliance Trust strongly urges you to not support AB 1634, the "California Healthy Pets Act." It would prove to be a costly misadventure.

If NAIA Trust can be of further assistance in this matter, please contact us.

Sincerely,

Patti Strand, National Director