



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

*Educating the Public about the Critical Difference between Animal Welfare and Animal Rights:  
Supporting Animal Welfare Using Common Sense, Science and Reason.*

March 11, 2003

The Honorable Joe Canciamilla, Chair, Assembly Water, Parks And Wildlife Committee  
Attention: Jeff Volberg, Consultant  
1020 N Street, Room 160  
Sacramento, CA 95814

In re: "AB 342, Mammals: taking - OPPOSITION"

Honorable committee members:

The National Animal Interest Alliance is a coalition of animal owners and organizations dedicated to animal welfare, responsible animal ownership, and maintaining the rights of owners to keep and enjoy pets. NAIA Trust is the NAIA partner that deals with legislative matters affecting responsible animal owners and enterprises. NAIA members who reside in California have asked that we review AB342, the ban on hunting with dogs under consideration in the state legislature, and offer comments about its provisions.

NAIA and NAIA Trust ask to be listed among the opponents in the AB 342 bill analysis for the following reasons.

AB342 has the potential to impact dog owners who participate in various sporting events or use dogs to keep pest animals off their property. For example, while it protects the pursuit of game birds in hunting and competitions, the bill would effectively ban hunting tests and trials for Beagles and Basset Hounds; jeopardize the use of terriers to keep rabbits and squirrels out of gardens, barns, and feed stores; outlaw the use of guardian dogs on farms; and prohibit go-to-ground tests for terriers.

The bill incorporates the definition of "take" in Section 86 of the California Fish and Game Law and therefore covers the pursuit, capture, or kill of a mammal in addition to deliberate hunting with the aim to capture or kill certain quarry. As a result, it could result in punishment of the owner and death of the dog if the owner fails to prevent his dog from indulging in the natural behavior to pursue, capture, or kill a mammal.

States that have banned hunting with dogs have seen an upsurge in the number of predatory animals threatening livestock, pets, and children. The Washington State Legislature amended its ban on hunting cougars with hounds when the big cats increased in population and became a danger to hikers, joggers, and suburban pets.

Dogs have a natural inclination to stalk and chase animals that they see as prey. Many dog breeds were developed to protect home territories from animals that raid food stores, carry disease, or stalk and kill livestock. This genetically-coded trait cannot be turned off because a law prohibits dogs from chasing wildlife that has unfettered access to private as well as public property.

NAIA Trust urges the California Legislature to eschew the agenda of anti-hunting activists and depend instead on biologists in the Fish and Game Department to determine policies about hunting, including the use of dogs to pursue game.

Sincerely,

Patti L. Strand, trustee  
NAIA Trust

*Patti Strand, Trustee, NAIA Trust, PO Box 66579 Portland, OR 97290  
503-761-1139 naia@involved.com*