



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:

Members of the North Carolina Senate Judiciary

June 21, 2006

Honorable Ladies and Gentlemen of the North Carolina Senate Judiciary Committee:

I am writing today on behalf of North Carolina members of the NAIA Trust, a national coalition of animal owners and public, private and commercial organizations dedicated to animal welfare, responsible animal ownership, and maintaining the rights of responsible citizens to keep and enjoy pets. For information on NAIA Trust or the National Animal Interest Alliance, a related educational organization, please visit these links: www.naiatrust.org or www.naiaonline.org.

NAIA Trust backs reasonable laws designed to reduce irresponsible pet ownership, to protect public health and safety from dangerous or diseased animals, and to advance the well-being of animals. At the same time, NAIA Trust strongly opposes infringements on due process and erosion of other civil liberties and rejects laws that ignore the lessons of past legislative failures, many which draw from special interest agendas rather than careful analysis of the issues at hand.

Please oppose SB 1554 in its current form. SB 1554 is a bad accident waiting to befall the citizens of North Carolina.

The language is written so ambiguously it could be argued in numerous ways, some appearing innocuous, and others with potentially devastating consequences. Because Professor William Reppy, is a hard core proponent of animal rights (legal rights for animals), however, please understand that the ambiguity is no accident. The language of this bill will muddy the waters so that like-minded lawyers (ones like Professor Reppy who are part of the Animal Legal Defense Fund) will be able to sue on behalf of animals to determine the bill's meaning and incrementally change the legal status of animals from property to something else in the process.

We are especially concerned that the language in this bill not be used to subsequently outlaw numerous kinds of hunting, animal husbandry and exhibition. Baiting is used in all these affairs in ways that few - outside the 1% of the public who count themselves as animal rightists - would find cruel. We also oppose bill language that assumes guilt prior to trial, something this bill would codify.

Please vote against this bill.

Sincerely,

Patti Strand, National Director

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