



NATIONAL ANIMAL INTEREST ALLIANCE

Supporting the people who care for America's animals

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 18, 2008
TO: Members of the California State Senate
FROM: Patti Strand, Chairman
RE: AB 1634

I am writing on behalf of the National Animal Interest Alliance to reiterate our opposition to AB 1634. NAIA is a national organization whose role is to provide a moderate, balanced, fact-based perspective within the animal welfare debate. We are proud to represent a variety of animal interests including organized dog and cat enthusiasts, agriculture, medical research, veterinary medicine, wildlife management and pet owners across America.

We have followed AB 1634 closely since it was first introduced as a mandatory spay/neuter bill in 2007. We, and our many members in California, weighed in frequently throughout the process, in hopes that our recommendations based on expertise and unique understanding of pet population dynamics would be incorporated into the substance of the bill.

On August 12, 2008, AB 1634 was amended for the 11th time. What started as a radically dangerous bill has devolved into a costly, redundant, off-target and ineffective bill with a few harmful precedent-setting provisions thrown in to make matters worse. Above all it is a textbook example of the kind of legislative arrogance that sacrifices civic purpose and good sense to political gamesmanship, making a mockery out of the democratic process and the citizens it is supposed to represent.

Although the bill's original stated purpose was to lower shelter impounds and euthanasia, actual experience and data from across the country guarantee that the punitive orientation of AB 1634 will increase pet dumping and shelter animal euthanasia. This highlights the ironic absence of any substantiated nexus between the bill's stated goal and the likely outcome.

Finally please note that if this unnecessary and reckless bill is passed, it will cost the taxpayers of California a small fortune in Hayden Act reimbursements to local governments. The changes offered in the latest version of AB 1634 will not significantly affect the fiscal projections we shared with the Senate Appropriations Committee - projections which show that AB 1634 passage would cause reimbursements to local governments to increase by at least \$750,000 and potentially millions of dollars annually. <http://www.naiaonline.org/pdfs/AB1634Finalapprops3.pdf>

Please oppose this misguided bill and the process used to gain a political victory at public expense.