



California Animal Control Directors Association

1215 K Street #2290, Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 231-2140 www.cacda.org

2009 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

President

Kathleen (Kat) Brown
Deputy Director
City and County of
San Francisco Animal
Care & Control
1200 15th Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

Vice President – South

Aaron Reyes,
Director of Operations
SEAACA
9777 SEAACA Street
Downey, CA 90241

Secretary

Lauren A. Joniaux,
Deputy Director
County of San Diego Animal
Services
2481 Palomar Airport Road
Carlsbad, CA 92011

Treasurer

Jon Cicirelli, Deputy Director
City of San Jose
Animal Care and Services
2750 S. Monterey Road
San Jose, CA 95111

DIRECTORS

Brian Cronin

San Bernardino County Animal
Care and Control

Glenn Howell, Director

Contra Costa County
Animal Services Department

Marcia Mayeda, Director

County of Los Angeles
Department of Animal Care and
Control

Robert Miller, Director

County of Riverside Animal
Services

Ernie C. Moleri

San Joaquin County Animal
Control

Catherine A. Smith

Executive Administrator

July 10, 2009

The Honorable Dean Florez
California State Senate
State Capitol Room 313
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 250 - CACDA Support if Amended

Dear Senator Florez,

On behalf of the members of the California Animal Control Directors Association (CACDA), I am writing to thank you for your introduction of Senate Bill 250 which would provide new and useful legal options to help local animal control reduce the number of unaltered animals that run loose in the community and ultimately reduce euthanasia in animal shelters. CACDA's membership includes most municipal animal shelters and local animal control agencies throughout the State that enforce laws like this.

CACDA is very interested in supporting this bill, and will support SB250 if it is amended as indicated below. However, as we have previously shared with your office, these concerns are ones we hope you will address:

In both the dog and cat sections the bill does not identify a specific consequence if a person does not sterilize their dog or cat as required. Although the dog section would allow the denial or revocation of an unaltered license as an enforcement mechanism, it would be easier for local animal control officers if it was clear and specific. We would recommend the following addition to Sections 30804.6 (g) and 31751.4 (d):

Any owner or custodian that does not provide written verification from a licensed veterinarian that an animal has been sterilized pursuant to the requirements set forth in (g for dogs)(d for cats) is guilty of an infraction. A fine of \$100 may be imposed by the licensing agency for each day the correct information is not provided pursuant to the licensing agency's direction.

When a licensing agency requires an owner to sterilize a dog or cat, the owner is permitted to provide information that an appointment has been made or arranged as proof of compliance with the order. This is a concern because making an appointment should not constitute compliance. Proof should include confirmation that the surgery has occurred. We would recommend the following changes:

~~Strike section 30804.6 (f)(3) Arrange to have the dog surgically sterilized by another veterinarian licensed in this state.; and 31751.4 (c)(3) Arrange to have the cat surgically sterilized by another veterinarian licensed in this state.. Delete the last part of last~~

~~sentence in sections 30804.6 (f)(4) and 31751.4(c)(4) – “...or confirming that the veterinarian has scheduled the operation within a reasonable time.”~~

Sections 30804.6(e) and 31751.4(b) are both related to obligations for the owner to transfer information about an unaltered animal to any new owner. We support this idea if amended; however, the two sections have different requirements. For consistency, they should be the same. CACDA's preference is to duplicate the language in 31751.4(b).

CACDA is prepared to support if amended this bill contingent on these changes, and would encourage the membership to utilize these laws should they pass. Thank you for your consideration and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or clarifications. We look forward to working with you and your staff to develop the best solutions to increase owner responsibility and reduce euthanasia in California.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Brown
President

cc: Honorable Members, Assembly or Senate Committee on Appropriations

Assembly Member Tom Ammiano
Assembly Member Charles Calderon
Assembly Member Mike Davis
Assembly Member Kevin De Leon, Chair
Assembly Member Mike Duvall
Assembly Member Felipe Fuentes
Assembly Member Isadore Hall
Assembly Member Diane Harkey
Assembly Member Dave Jones
Assembly Member Jeff Miller
Assembly Member Jim Nielsen, Vice Chair
Assembly Member John Perez
Assembly Member Curren Price, Jr.
Assembly Member Nancy Skinner
Assembly Member Jose Solorio
Assembly Member Audra Strickland
Assembly Member Tom Torlakson