



Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor
State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Veto request for AB 1122

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger;

PetPAC, an organization that represents over 65,000 pet owners and 1,900 dog and cat clubs urges you to veto AB 1122, Lieu. AB 1122 has broad implications that would severely and detrimentally impact dog shows, cat shows, hunting, herding, police and farm training, as well as training and placing of service dogs, guide dogs, and dogs for the hearing impaired. This is a gross injustice that will affect hundreds of thousands of pet owners in California.

More grievously, AB 1122 makes the act of **selling, displaying for sale, or giving away a live animal a violation of criminal animal abuse laws**. In other words this bill makes the location of the sale the crime, not the condition of the animals. An owner selling or giving away his own property is not a crime. Animal abuse violations would allow confiscation of all of the owners' animals, and prohibit the ownership or possession of any animal for five years. If a buyer wanted to purchase a puppy from an exhibitor at a dog show that would be considered a criminal violation and animal abuse. The purchase of a puppy from a dog or cat show exhibitor and breeder is the most transparent, safe, contractual sale there is.

The latest amendments to AB 1122 to exempt dog, cat and bird shows were written without input from anyone within the animal community. AB 1122 exempts: *(8) A cat show, dog show, or bird show, provided that all of the Following circumstances exist:*

** (A) The show is validly permitted by the city or county in which the show is held. *Section (A): cannot be complied with as there are puppy shows that are held at public parks without permits required.*

** (B) Each and every participant in the show complies with all Federal, state, and local animal welfare and animal control laws. *Section (B): Dogs in exhibition do not wear their license tags as it interferes with judging. Dogs in obedience and agility do not wear a leash as part of their training is off lead. Dogs at dog shows bark. If just one exhibitor or participant is in violation the entire show is not exempt. This is an impossible rule. Proponents have stated they do not want to interfere with animal sport shows, but it is quite evident by these requirements their intentions is to do just that. No other species exempted in AB 1122 were given anything but a blanket exemption.*

AB 1122 is poorly written: AB 1122 even goes so far as to affect the training, sale and donation of service dogs, police dogs, and guide dogs. These animals are trained with the potential new owner on public streets. This is a violation of AB 1122 and animal cruelty. *It is a criminal offense to even give away one of these dogs to a recipient under the provisions of AB1122.*

Sincerely;

Bill Hemby
Chairman