

# THE ANIMAL COUNCIL

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September 15, 2011

Via Facsimile (916) 558-3160

Governor Jerry Brown  
c/o State Capitol, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1121 Dog licensing: issuance: puppy licenses - VETO REQUEST

Dear Governor Brown:

We urge you to veto AB 1121, because it encompasses an overly broad, unnecessary, unanticipated data collection and processing mandate on local governments and presents a rigidly complicated, unnecessary scheme to license under-age puppies at local option on the presumption that licensing all or at least more dogs at rates greater than historically licensed in California (and throughout the United States). California already has exemplary rabies control and prevention despite rather than because of the dog licensing mandate. Every extra compliance burden heaped on pet owners, sometimes impossible due to local restrictions, in the multi-lingual, diverse, mobile California population risks diminishing this success rather than enhancing local revenues or any other program. Supporters' arguments are speculative and illusory, but the actual costs and confusion that would be created by the transfer reporting mandate are real and unanalyzed. For example, among mandated reporters are "rescue groups" as the broadest statutory definition including as few as 2 persons acting together with no formal organization or location of operation, often transferring dogs to far away destinations.

This bill is the 15<sup>th</sup> in a series of California bills involving dogs we have considered since 1997, proposing complex schemes to be mandated of local governments together with an array of individuals and entities in hopes of advancing ideas by entirely speculative means without regard to costs, consequences and risks every conceivable level, both public and private. The previous 14 bills were all unsuccessful – too impractical and unrealistic as statewide legislation on local government. AB 1121 is yet another that would impose untold challenges to implement initially or over time, far exceeding whatever its hoped benefits and possibly counterproductive to these, as well. Accordingly, we ask that you veto AB 1121.

THE ANIMAL COUNCIL (TAC) is a California nonprofit, public benefit corporation founded in 1991 to seek positive, humane solutions to the challenges of detrimental animal public policies, legislation and regulation through study, analysis and application of animal husbandry, statistics and law, and at the same time preserve human benefit from all species, breeds and registries.

Very truly yours,



SHARON A. COLEMAN  
President, The Animal Council