



# THE CAT FANCIERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.

World's Largest Registry of Pedigreed Cats

## LEGISLATIVE ALERT

Issued: April 2, 2009

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### SB 250 -- Mandatory Sterilization of Cats and Dogs CALIFORNIA

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**BRIEF SUMMATION:** This bill mandates sterilization of most dogs and cats in California. By creating new crimes and imposing new duties on local animal control agencies, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program upon local governments.

**CURRENT STATUS:** The bill has been assigned to the California Senate Local Government Committee. **IMMEDIATE ACTION IS NEEDED** from clubs/organizations *on their letterhead* to be included on the opposition list. We anticipate the deadline will be 4/8/09.

### WHAT THIS LEGISLATION WILL MEAN TO YOU AND ARGUMENTS AGAINST THIS LEGISLATION:

See the previous CFA Action Alert dated March 12, 2009.  
<http://www.cfa.org/exhibitors/alert-CA-SB250-031209.pdf>

### ACTION TO TAKE:

ORGANIZATIONS (clubs, rescue groups, etc.) must get on the Bill OPPOSE list by April 8, 2009 – there is not much time!! Send your faxes NOW to be received by the Committee Consultant, Peter Detwiler to be included in the Bill Analysis OPPOSE list. He will be preparing a bill analysis that will list by name supporting and opposing organizations.

INDIVIDUALS NOTE: It is important for individuals to fax short opposition too - individual opposition will also be noted as a total in the bill analysis.

Please also copy the five Local Government Committee members and as a courtesy copy the bill's author, Senator Dean Florez.

- 1) Send your letters on Organization or Club *letterhead*. Mail or fax - hard copy is important.
- 2) Reference the title - " Re: OPPOSE SB 250 as amended 4/2/09  
An act to add Section 30804.6 to the Food and  
Agricultural Code, relating to animals.
- 3) Begin your letter by asking that your club (state name) be included on the opposition list for SB 250 as amended April 2, 2009. If you are an out of state breed clubs with members in California, please be sure to note that fact.
- 4) Don't worry too much about substance; the goal is to be listed as an opposition group. One page is ideal – 2 pages are OK.
- 5) Put comments in your own words so the letters do not appear to be “form”. You may use the samples below - make only a few brief points. If you would like more suggested points please look at the previous CFA Action Alert dated March 12, 2009.
- 6) Conclude your letter by again requesting inclusion in the listed opposition for the Bill Analysis; thank the Senator for his/her time and ask for a NO vote on SB 250.

#### SUGGESTED POINTS:

\*\* SB 250 is an unfunded mandate on local government. Every local jurisdiction in California would have to determine how to change ordinances and how to comply with these new requirements. The cost of enforcement will be high and California taxpayers will ultimately pay for this legislation. It will only further burden the counties and municipalities and divert limited resources that would be better utilized elsewhere.

\*\* Jurisdictions that have imposed mandatory spay/neuter laws have found them to be costly and unenforceable. Analysis of a similar measure last year (AB 1634) by the California Department of Finance showed animal control costs are likely to rise, euthanasia rates increase, and pet licensing drop off. Money will have to be taken from other vital local services.

\*\* Those who "possess" intact unlicensed cats are often feral cat caretakers who have not yet been able to trap and sterilize. The fear of punishment will mean these cats will be

ignored and continue to reproduce unchecked - shelters will see more cat intakes in the future.

**PLANNED MEETINGS:** We have been informed that the Senate Local Government Committee will probably take up SB 250 on April 15. However, the deadline for organizations to be listed in opposition is April 8. Please act promptly.

**CONTACT LIST:** Contact information for the Senate Local Government committee, the committee consultant, and the bill's author are as follows:

Senate Local Government Committee  
ATTN: Peter Detwiler, Consultant  
State Capitol Room 5046  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Fax: 916-322-0298

Author:  
**SENATOR DEAN FLOREZ**  
State Capitol, Room 313  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Fax: (916) 327-5989

Senate Local Government Committee Members:

**SENATOR PATRICA WIGGINS** (Chair)  
State Capitol, Room 4081  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Phone: (916) 651-4002  
Fax (916) 323-6958

**SENATOR CHRISTINE KEHOE**  
State Capitol, Room 5050  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Phone: (916) 651-4039  
Fax: (916) 327-2188

**SENATOR DAVE COX** (Vice Chair)  
State Capitol, Room 2068  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Phone: (916) 651-4001  
Fax: (916) 324-2680

**SENATOR LOIS WOLK**  
State Capitol, Room 4032  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Phone: (916) 651-4005  
Fax: (916) 323-2304

**SENATOR SAM AANESTAD**  
State Capitol, Room 3063  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Phone: (916) 651-4004  
Fax: (916) 445-7750