CHOW FANCIERS ASSOCIATION
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
Legislative Liaison
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June 26, 2009

The Honorable Mary Hayashi
Chair, Business and Professions Committee
California State Assembly
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Oppose SB 250, as amended May 28, 2009.

Dear Assembly Member Hayashi:

The CFASC would like you to oppose Senate Bill 250. While its mechanism of implementation has been changed by recent amendments, SB 250 is still a measure that would embed mandatory spay/neuter as the law of the state. We strenuously oppose this legislation.

Here are our thoughts:

1. When human social services are being cut in response to California's insolvency, it is shameful for our legislature to be considering animal welfare laws that will increase costs. The analysis done last year by the California Department of Finance on AB 1634 concluded, "Requiring owners of dogs and cats to pay . . . for spaying and neutering procedures, regardless of whether the animal was impounded or not, may result in more animals being abandoned or surrendered." More animals surrendered means higher costs.

2. Mandatory spay/neuter laws have not been successful in reducing the number of animals entering shelters. The ASPCA, hardly an enemy to animal welfare, supports this fact in its Position Statement on Mandatory Spay/Neuter Laws,

. . . the ASPCA is not aware of any credible evidence demonstrating a statistically significant enhancement in the reduction of shelter intake or euthanasia as a result of the implementation of a mandatory spay/neuter law.

Proponents of SB 250 often tout the success of the mandatory spay/neuter ordinance in Santa Cruz. However, annual reports filed with the California Department of Public Health, show that impounds and killing of dogs in Santa Cruz County shelters declined at a lower rate than in the state as a whole since 1994, the year the ordinance was enacted. And then there is Los Angeles . . . .

WE OWN DOGS & WE VOTE! *American Kennel Club*

3. Mandatory spay/neuter laws raise public health concerns.

Although spaying and neutering helps control dog and cat populations, mandatory approaches may contribute to pet owners avoiding licensing, rabies vaccination and veterinary care for their pets, and may have other unintended consequences.

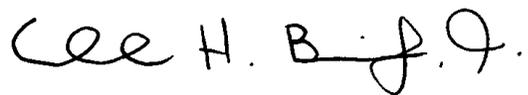– <u>AVMA Policy on Dog and Cat Population Control</u>

4. Finally, each community within the state can already enact its own mandatory spay/neuter ordinances. We believe that the diversity of communities in California suggests animal control issues may be best addressed locally. Clearly, the animal control issues in the state's rural counties are much different than those in our urban centers. The ASPCA in its <u>Position Statement</u> continues, "Each community is unique, however, in terms of the particular sources and causes of companion animal overpopulation . . . . No one-size-fits-all solution is therefore possible."

Indeed, there are alternative practices that work without the coercion and costs of mandatory spay/neuter laws. Sadly, especially for the animals, the entrenched "Animal Rights" establishment has lost sight of its mission – improving the welfare of animals – and opposes solutions that work, but fail ideological litmus tests.

CFASC represents approximately twenty-five Chow Chow owners, breeders and fanciers in California. Our club was founded in 1934 and is the oldest club in California dedicated to the Chow Chow breed. We believe that we provide the public with important and high-profile examples of responsible dog ownership and dog breeding through our various activities. We are concerned about abandoned animals and work hard in our breed information and breed rescue programs to help solve this problem.

We respectfully ask that you consider the extreme shortcomings of this proposed legislation and <u>vote no</u> on SB 250.

Sincerely,

Charles H. Bridges, Jr.
Legislative Liaison
Chow Fanciers Association of Southern California

cc: Members, Assembly Business and Professions Committee
        Staff, Assembly Business and Professions Committee
        Senator Dean Florez