



6/1/07

California State Assembly
The Capitol
Sacramento, CA

Re: AB 1634 (California Healthy Pets Act), as amended May 31, 2007 and all versions – OPPOSE

Honorable Assembly Members,

The California Rescue Dog Association (CARDA) stands with other organizations that serve California law enforcement in strongly opposing AB 1634, mandatory spay/neuter of dogs and cats. We have reviewed bill as amended on May 31, 2007 and have determined that the revisions do not address our concerns.

CARDA reiterates our previously-stated position: AB 1634 cannot be fixed.

CARDA is a mutual aid resource for California law enforcement agencies, with the purpose to furnish highly trained volunteer dog teams to assist in search-and-rescue missions for missing persons. CARDA is the largest K9 search-and-rescue organization in California, with almost 300 volunteers, and one of the largest in the nation. Established in 1976, CARDA and its standards serve as a model for other search dog organizations nationwide. CARDA teams are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to respond to local, state, and federal law enforcement as well as other public service agency requests. CARDA teams have participated in over 2000 searches in the past decades and have saved agencies over \$3 million through the use of volunteer resources. Many California residents and law enforcement agencies have benefited from having CARDA K9 SAR teams available throughout the state.

The majority of CARDA search dogs are bred by California working dog breeders. With its draconian restrictions, AB 1634 would devastate working dog breeding in the state. Not only will these low quantity, high quality working dog breeders be deterred by additional permits, fees and restrictions, their available quality gene pool will shrink dramatically. It is commonplace in working lines to allow dogs that are late bloomers, showing outstanding instinct or drive, to be used in breeding programs by their breeders, despite being owned and responsibly cared for in pet homes. AB 1634 threatens this very old, honored and proven practice. In addition, those working dogs that show aptitude for work and may need adoption into working homes may also suffer long-term adverse health effects in the demanding job of search and rescue after being altered (per AB1634) prior to their growth being complete. It is for these reasons that AB 1634 threatens the future of K9 search-and-rescue (SAR) emergency response in California.

CARDA continues to be in agreement with other working dog organizations in concluding that no amendments to the language of AB 1634 could mitigate the harm it would do to those in California who must have working dogs, such as K9 search-and-rescue. AB 1634 cannot be fixed.

The California Rescue Dog Association strongly urges that AB 1634 be either withdrawn or defeated.

Sincerely,

Eric Sheets
President, California Rescue Dog Association