

# **The Animal Council**

**P.O. Box 168, Millbrae, CA 94030**

January 6, 1994

The Honorable Mike Gotch, Chairperson  
Assembly Committee on Local Government  
State Capital, Room 3123  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Gotch,

The Animal Council is a California nonprofit, public benefit, tax-exempt (501c4) corporation founded in 1991 to seek positive, humane solutions to public interest issues involving animals.

In 1990 when animal rights activists in the United States began their campaign for breeding bans, moratoria and regulatory schemes as solutions to the "pet overpopulation crisis", we noted that this was a part of a broader agenda which included restricting or eliminating traditional human activities with animals, such as breeding cats and dogs for specific purposes. This view seemed extreme to many at the time.

Caring legislators, believing all interest groups were united by a common "love" for animals, did not realize that neither traditional animal welfare groups nor animal owners initiate these "activist" proposals. Dramatic legislative approaches, which are not warranted given the downward trends of animal population and incomplete academic study, have therefore been gaining in support.

Meanwhile, addressing terrorist threats to American animal interests, Congress enacted the Animal Enterprise Protection Act of 1992. This act mandated the Department of Justice and U.S. Department of Agriculture study of the effects of domestic and international terrorism on enterprises using animals. Federal criminal charges under the Act are triggered by a \$10,000 damage threshold. Justice documented 21 major incidents for which estimated direct costs exceeded \$10,000. Of these, 12 occurred in California. Of the 313 reported lesser damage incidents, 45.7% occurred in California.

The report names People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) as holding news conferences to justify illegal acts perpetrated by others. (PETA was listed as a supporter of the San Jose Pet Ordinance, recently before the San Jose City Council.)

**a California Non-profit Public Benefit Corporation**  
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Enclosed is a copy of this landmark government report and its accompanying cover letter to Vice President Gore. We believe that every legislator -- no matter how you are rated on the activist PACs' charts -- should understand the development and dangers of the animal activist movement in our country and California.

The report clearly distinguishes traditional animal welfare from the militant, misnamed animal rights groups. When you consider sponsoring, supporting or voting on animal issues legislation, we ask that you recall this report and determine whose agenda will be advanced. While consumer protection, public and environmental safety, and revenue raising are the usual justifications for legislative action, it is becoming increasingly clear that these are camouflaging a philosophical motivation for bills which would not be publicly supported if more clearly understood.

Such a bill is A.B.302, scheduled to be heard by the Assembly Committee of Local Government on January 12. Designed by Kim Sturla, originator of the legislative breeding ban concept, A.B.302 was supposed to require sterilization of all outdoor cats and advance feline welfare. Now it is a scheme to round up and kill cats supposedly to protect wildlife. In fact, the San Francisco Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, one of the foremost animal welfare organizations in the country vehemently opposes this bill. **We hope you, too, will oppose A.B.302, as misguided legislation.**

Finally, we are enclosing a summary of the 12 point animal liberation plank which was intended for inclusion in Green Party platforms in the United States -- animal activists hoped to piggy back on environmentalists. While not all activists subscribe to each point, much fund raising and "humane education"-- including that supposedly mandated for public schools in California -- is comprehensive.

We hope that you share our concern for both people and animals in your legislative work.

Very truly yours,

THE ANIMAL COUNCIL

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