

THE ANIMAL COUNCIL

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April 1, 2009

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ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY
ATTN: Bill Consultant
1020 N Street, Room 111
Sacramento CA 95814

Re: AB 242, criminal penalty increase, as introduced Feb. 10, 2009 – OPPOSITION

Gentlemen:

We oppose AB 242 and request inclusion on the listed opposition for the bill analysis in your committee.

This bill would unnecessarily increase existing criminal penalties under Penal Code Section 597.5 related to dog fighting. Existing penalties are entirely adequate to address the severity of these crimes relative to the overall range of criminal offenses in California and their related costs and burdens to the criminal justice system, the prison system and the individuals and their families involved. For these reasons, we oppose AB 242 as excessively punitive and costly to California.

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

Cc: Committee members
Author