

THE ANIMAL COUNCIL

P.O. Box 168, Millbrae CA 94030

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April 1, 2009

FAX: 916-319-3745

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

Re: AB 243, "Animal Abuse" as introduced Feb. 10, 2009 – OPPOSITION

Gentlemen:

We oppose AB 243 and request inclusion on the listed opposition for the bill analysis in your committee.

This bill would amend Penal Code Section 597.1, amended to be a mandate rather than county elected option with the 1997 Hayden bill, SB 1785, inexplicably. This bill would delete a paragraph covering post-adjudication provisions protecting individuals to mandate a number of post-conviction (designated offenses) restrictions on owning or caring for animals. This would remove all judicial discretion as to these post-conviction issues, and as introduced, deletes the provisions for return or disposition of animals following acquittal or non-conviction. For these reasons, we oppose AB 243 as excessively punitive and removing judicial discretion to protect the rights of individuals.

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