

THE ANIMAL COUNCIL

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March 31, 2016

Via Facsimile 916-266-9343

The Honorable Jerry Hill, Chair
The Honorable Patricia C. Bates, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Business, Professions & Economic Development
State Capitol, Room 2053
Sacramento CA 95814

Attention: Bill Consultant

Re: SB 945, Pet boarding facilities, as amended March 29, 2016, OPPOSE AS WRITTEN

Dear Chairman Hill and Members:

Regarding the March 29 amendments to the above-captioned bill, The Animal Council re-affirms its opposition as explained in its letter of March 17 that registered our opposition and requested listing on your Committee's Bill Analysis opposition list.

While we appreciate removal of the space/weight requirements and return to the slightly higher definition threshold, the thrust of our opposition remains the effort to regulate pet boarding through criminal offenses. In this respect, the March 29 amendments are even worse.

Although the pet boarding industry is very fragmented and covers a wide range of factual situations, most operators depend on the income for their livelihood and have made substantial capital investments. The new provision, "A person convicted of an infraction, misdemeanor, or felony related to the welfare of animals, including, but not limited to, a violation of Section 597 of the Penal Code, is prohibited from operating a pet boarding facility or from being employed as an employee of a pet boarding facility" is disproportionately harsh, overbroad and overreaching in the context of criminal law.

The public interest in preserving availability of boarding services should be a high priority when we are all a fire, earthquake, flood, mudslide or other emergency away from evacuating our homes along with our pets and left no choice but boarding care. This interest would not be served by barring individuals from the industry by infraction offenses, particularly those that may be trivial and harmless.

Very truly yours,



SHARON A. COLEMAN

President, The Animal Council

Cc: Author