

Date of Hearing: April 13, 2016

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Lorena Gonzalez, Chair

AB 2269 (Waldron) – As Amended March 30, 2016

Policy Committee: Judiciary

Vote: 10 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: Yes

Reimbursable: Yes

SUMMARY:

Prohibits the sale or transfer of live animals from pounds and animal shelters to any animal dealer or research facility for purposes of research or experimentation. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Prohibits a person or animal shelter that accepts animals from the public or takes in stray or unwanted animals from selling, giving, or otherwise transferring a living animal to a research facility or to an animal dealer, and prohibits the research facility or animal dealer from procuring or otherwise accepting such animals.
- 2) Prohibits a person or animal shelter from euthanizing any animal for the purpose, in whole or in part, of transferring the carcass to a research facility or animal dealer.
- 3) Establishes a \$1,000 civil penalty for any violation of these provisions, in an action brought by a local prosecutor.

FISCAL EFFECT:

- 1) Any costs to county animal facilities, while state-reimbursable, should be minor and absorbable.
- 2) Potential minor non-reimbursable costs to cities and counties for enforcement, offset to some extent by fine revenue.

COMMENTS:

Purpose. This bill, sponsored by the State Humane Association of California, expressly prohibits, the acquisition of live animals from public or private animal shelters for use in scientific or other experimentation—a practice commonly known as "pound seizure." Current law already prohibits animals that are abandoned at veterinarian hospitals, kennels, pet grooming parlors, and animal hospitals from being sold into any type of research, but this ban does not apply to animals left in animal shelters or pounds, where the practice is expressly allowed as long as certain signage and notice requirements are met. This bill will create uniformity across the state with respect to pound seizure, because the practice is already prohibited by local ordinance in many cities and counties.

The bill also prohibits a shelter from euthanizing animals for the purpose of selling or transferring their carcasses to an animal dealer—animals that presumably may be otherwise adoptable, as they were in a recent Bakersfield scandal—while still allowing the sale or transfer

of cadavers of animals that were euthanized under more legitimate circumstances in the ordinary operation of the shelter. There is no known opposition to this bill.

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