

THE ANIMAL COUNCIL

P.O. Box 168, Millbrae CA 94030

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April 9, 2010

FAX: 916-319-3959

The Honorable Cameron Smyth
Chair, Assembly Committee on Local Government
ATTENTION: Bill Consultant
1020 N Street, Room 157
Sacramento CA 95814

Re: AB 2689, amended April 8, 2010 Canine Rabies, H&S Code §121690 - OPPOSITION

Gentlemen:

Please register our opposition to the above-captioned bill and include our organization on your Committee's Bill Analysis opposition list.

Specifically, we oppose lowering the mandated age of rabies vaccination of dogs from current 4 months to 3 months and consequential licensing requirement for rabies endemic areas as prescribed in the Health & Safety Code. California has enjoyed a stellar record of rabies prevention – something we have documented on our website with many years of original source records. <http://www.theanimalcouncil.com/reference.html>

The extremely rare rabies exposure for a yet unvaccinated, less-than-4 months puppy is a tiny and remote risk overwhelmingly outweighed by the risks of mandating vaccination of these young puppies – 1) perception or fact that anti-rabies vaccine may not be effective under 4 mos.; 2) interference with efficacy of other vaccinations; 3) autoimmune response with adverse consequence to individual animal and owners; 4) need for later re-vaccination to meet different statutory requirement in other jurisdiction(s), compounding risks 2) and 3); 5) lowered age of licensing incompatible with frequency of puppy transfers to new homes under 4 months.

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

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