

April 2, 2017

Honorable Adrin Nazarian
State Capitol, Room 4146
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support AB 1199 Police-Canine Encounters Protection Act

Dear Assemblymember Nazarian:

_____ is in support of AB 1199, the Police-Canine Encounters Protection Act. Over the years peace officer training has grown to include specialized circumstances such as appropriate ways to interface with individuals having behavioral health issues. Gaps in the training lead to needless deaths, and angry public outcry.

There is still one outstanding group that needs protection, our beloved pets. AB 1199 will provide training to California peace officers about how to both quickly and safely respond to unexpected situations when encountering a dog. This invaluable training will give them the tools to protect themselves as well as the life of a treasured canine family member.

Encouraged by states such as Texas and Colorado, and other jurisdictions that have successfully mandated similar training, we expect statistics in California to reduce once the bill becomes law and training is implemented. Here are some other important facts:

- There are approximately 77.5 million owned dogs in the United States.
- Dogs are likely to be encountered in thirty-nine percent of residential locations.
- Facts show that the numbers of dog bites are down, but lethal force is still needlessly used when there are alternatives.
- Lawsuits against law enforcement agencies are on the rise, awarding significant settlements to owners/guardians of killed dogs.
- Information furnished by various California law enforcement agencies indicated that at least one-half of all intentional discharges of a firearm by an officer from involved animals.

We are happy to support this important and necessary piece of legislation.