



## Assembly Bill 702 – The Pet Breeder Humane Care Act

### Summary

AB-XYZ aims to help reduce the pet overpopulation problem in California by requiring that no person shall breed a dog or cat without a breeder permit from the local jurisdiction. The bill also sets out minimum requirements for the care and breeding of dogs and cats that must be adhered to as a condition of receiving a breeding permit. The bill leaves the cost of the permit at the discretion of the local jurisdiction as well as exempting those breeding animals for service or guiding as defined in subparagraph (C) of paragraph (6) of subdivision (b) of Section 54.1 of the Civil Code.

### Issue and Background

According to the American Humane Society, each year approximately 10 million pets are lost in the United States, and more than 6 million animals wind up in the nation's animal shelters. Out of the over 6 million animals that are sheltered, approximately 1.5 million sheltered dogs and cats lose their lives to euthanasia. This amounts to 171 dogs and cats every hour. In California, hundreds of thousands of sheltered dogs and cats are euthanized every year.

A significant number of animals in shelters originate from the activities of amateur dog and cat breeders, commonly referred to as "backyard breeders." While some may have good intentions, in many cases the driving motivation is to make money, but at the expense of the animals being bred. Often times the conditions where the animals are kept are substandard, nor is proper care provided for the animals that are bred, including lack of proper vaccinations and veterinary care.

Unlike reputable and professional breeders, "backyard breeders" commonly sell on websites such as Craigslist or Ebay and do not vet prospective buyers of one of their animals for the care that pet will receive. These animals can find their way to other "backyard breeders" who repeat the cycle of overbreeding, ultimately contributing to our state's pet overpopulation.

### Solution

Requiring breeder permits with specified minimum requirements for the care of bred dogs and cats, as well as limits on the number of litters per animal per year will reduce the number of animals that find their way into our state's animal shelters, saving taxpayer dollars and reducing the suffering of countless dogs and cats being irresponsibly bred.

### Support

Social Compassion in Legislation (Sponsor)

### For more information

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