

The Honorable Brian Maienschein
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1648 (Maienschein) – Disaster Preparedness: local government: animal wildfire evacuation plan –
SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Maienschein:

I am writing in support of Assembly Bill 1648 and thank you for introducing this important legislation. This bill, where a city or county requires a permit to keep an animal within its jurisdiction, requires an animal owner as a condition for obtaining the permit to create and submit an animal wildfire evacuation plan.

California continues to experience catastrophic wildfires of historic proportion devastating both Northern and Southern California. These disasters, among other things, tragically highlighted the serious need for preparing and executing evacuation plans for animals. In the chaos of wildfire, animals are and will be left to suffer and perish in the absence of pre-planning by their guardians. Furthermore, when animals are not evacuated, first responders and “good Samaritans” are put in danger while trying to save those animals.

The sheltering and protection of animals is the primary responsibility of their guardians. As the effects of climate change worsen, wildfires are expected to occur more often and with greater ferocity. This is our new normal.

Unfortunately, we learned from the recent wildfires that people are unprepared to protect their animals, as thousands died unable to escape. Having a plan in place, increases the chance that animals will be saved in the event of a catastrophic wildfire while saving time and resources of first responders.

AB 1648 will take an important step in reducing the tragic loss of life to animals as a result of wildfire and urge your colleagues in the legislature to support this important legislation.

Sincerely,