



SCIL
Social Compassion
in Legislation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sacramento, Calif., March 12, 2024 – Today, **Assembly Member Bill Essayli** (R-Corona) introduced **AB 2425**, a bill sponsored by **Social Compassion in Legislation (SCIL)**, that will expand the definition of breeder by lowering the number of dogs that must be bred for breeding regulations to apply, and ensure that all dogs sold by breeders are microchipped and vaccinated. The bill also includes provisions requiring that shelters post the adoption availability of animals on their website or a third-party website. Lastly, it will order the California Department of Food and Agriculture to conduct a study on overcrowding in California shelters and potential remedies, including a statewide database listing all dogs and cats available for adoption.

Each of these provisions will help in its own way to address the pet overpopulation problem:

- Current law states that a person must sell three or more litters, or 20 or more dogs, to be defined as a breeder. This bill will lower the threshold to qualify as a breeder to more than one litter or more than 10 dogs.
- Current law states that animal shelters must vaccinate and microchip dogs before adopting them out, but breeders are not subject to the same obligations. This bill will apply the same vaccination and microchipping requirements to breeders.
- Under current law, shelters only have to keep records of animals available for adoption on paper. This bill will require that they display animals in their care and available for adoption online, in a conspicuous location on their own website or that of a third party such as PetFinder.com or AdoptAPet.com.
- Lastly, the bill calls for a study on the overcrowding of California pet shelters and ways to address the problem, and on the feasibility of setting up and maintaining a statewide database that would include all animals available for adoption.

“Backyard breeding is one of the main causes of California’s dire pet overpopulation crisis,” said **Judie Mancuso, Founder and President of Social Compassion in Legislation**. “People are constantly asking me why no one cracks down on those who repeatedly breed their animals as a money-making hobby, even as taxpayers bear the cost of housing and euthanizing hundreds of thousands of healthy, adoptable shelter animals every year. I tell them that SCIL is doing what we can at the state level, but it’s up to local jurisdictions to enact and enforce tough ordinances and ensure compliance with state law. By subjecting more backyard breeders to state regulations and pushing shelters to get more animals into forever homes, AB 2425 moves us in the right direction.”

AB 2425 will be heard in the first committee hearing in April.