

California 2009 Legislation

as of 16-Apr-09

SENATE BILLS SUPPORTED AND/OR SPONSORED BY THE HSUS

SB 135 - Ban on Painful Tail Docking of Cows (Florez)* - Amends Penal Code to end the painful and unnecessary practice of docking cows' tails in California's dairy industry. Comprehensive research by California animal scientists and veterinarians found that "the available data do not support claims that docking improves the dairy workers' comfort or safety or the health or cleanliness of the cow's udder." Tail-docking of cows is opposed by the American Veterinary Medical Association and the California Veterinary Medical Association. Status: Senate Food & Ag cmte hearing on April 21.

SB 318- Seizure and Forfeiture of Dog-Fighting Assets (Calderon)* - Amends Penal Code that deals with forfeiture of property for illegal activity to allow for the forfeiture of property of anyone found guilty of violating the dog-fighting codes and allows for the forfeiture of property of those persons that are facilitators of dog-fighting activity. Requires proceeds to be distributed to non-profit organizations and law enforcement. Important tool for law enforcement to crack down on organized crime that thrives on the profits that dog-fighting generates. Status: Senate Public Safety cmte hearing on April 21.

SB 428 – Creating a Marine Mammal Park in San Diego (Kehoe) – Amends state statutes to give the City of San Diego the right to designate Casa Beach as a marine mammal park for the enjoyment and educational benefit of children, in accordance with federal codes protecting marine mammals. Broadening the purposes of this coastal area to include use as a natural haul out area for the seals advances the will of San Diego citizens. If passed, the City of San Diego will be able to maintain Casa Beach as a valuable attraction that brings tourists to the La Jolla area and take much-needed action to protect seals and their habitat. *Sponsored by the City of San Diego.* Status: Passed Senate Local Government cmte; Senate floor vote expected on April 16.

ASSEMBLY BILLS SUPPORTED AND/OR SPONSORED BY THE HSUS

AB 233 - Tax Deductibility of Animal Adoption Fees (Smyth)* - Amends Revenue & Taxation Code to allow a deduction for the qualified costs paid or incurred by a taxpayer for the adoption of pets from an animal rescue organization. Encouraging the adoption of homeless animals will reduce the nearly \$250 million annual costs associated with sheltering and euthanasia. *Co-sponsored by the ASPCA.* Status: Assembly Revenue & Taxation cmte hearing on April 20.

AB 241 - Limit on Number of Breeding Dogs & Cats (Nava)* - Amends Penal Code to prohibit any individual or business that buys or sells dogs to have more than 50 dogs or cats with intact sexual organs. Also requires anyone required to reduce numbers to comply to spay/neuter or relinquish excess animals to local animal control, rescue groups or other licensed organizations. Will enable humane investigators to more effectively and efficiently deal with complaints about dogs living in squalid conditions and receiving inadequate care. Will also help curb pet overpopulation and the stress that large scale breeders place on animal shelters. *Co-sponsored with the ASPCA and Social Compassion in Legislation.* Status: Passed Assembly Public Safety cmte; Assembly Business & Professions cmte hearing on April 28.

AB 242 - Increased Criminal Penalties for Dog-fighting (Nava)* - Amends Penal Code to create straight felony for organizers of dog fights and increases penalties for spectators at staged dog-fighting exhibitions. Spectators fuel the industry through admission fees and gambling, making dog fights



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lucrative for the organizers. California is a magnet for the criminals who want to watch dog fights, because they face tougher penalties in neighboring states like Arizona and Oregon. Status: Passed Assembly Public Safety cmte; referred to Assembly Appropriations cmte.

AB 243 – Requires Judges to Prohibit Felons from Owning Animals (Nava) - Amends Penal Code to require judges to prohibit felons convicted of animal cruelty from owning animals for a period of time. Fourteen states already grant judges this authority to help prevent future crimes against animals. *Sponsored by the Los Angeles County Deputy District Attorneys Association.* Status: Passed Assembly Public Safety cmte; referred to Assembly Appropriations cmte.

AB 708 – Establishing Minimum Poaching Fines (Huffman) – Amends Fish & Game Code to declare that poaching is a serious and growing threat to California's wildlife species and biodiversity and that current penalties and enforcement levels have proven insufficient to serve as an effective deterrent to poaching. Directs that sufficient resources be dedicated for effective enforcement and increases penalties for egregious poaching violations. Status: Assembly Water, Parks & Wildlife cmte hearing on April 28.

AB 1122 - Ban on the Sale of Animals at Flea Markets (Lieu) – Adds a new section to the Penal Code banning the sale of animals at flea markets, swap meets and alongside roads. The absence of effective regulations has resulted in animals being sold at these outdoor venues in terrible conditions. The animals are being sold often live in unsanitary crowded pens or cages, without food and/or water, in extreme heat. Some of these animals are so ill that they die shortly after purchase. This bill would alleviate the suffering of these animals and also will reduce the threat to public health and safety from *Salmonella* and other diseases. *Sponsored by the California Animal Association (of which The HSUS is a member).* Status: Assembly Business & Professions cmte hearing on April 21.

AB 1437 – Egg Laying Hen Welfare Act (Huffman) - Amends Health & Safety Code to prohibit the sale of shelled eggs in California if they are the product of an egg-laying hen that was confined on a farm or place that is not in compliance with animal care standards set forth in the Prevention of Farm Animal Cruelty Act. Research shows that consumers eating eggs from caged hens have a significantly higher risk of contracting *Salmonella* poisoning compared to those eating cage-free or organic eggs. Would become effective on January 1, 2015. Status: Assembly Agriculture cmte hearing on April 29.

ACR 19 – Proclaiming Spay Day USA in California (Smyth)*– Declares February 24, 2009 to be Spay Day USA 2009 and requests Californians to observe the day by having their dogs or cats spayed or neutered and by contributing to charitable organizations that provide spay and neuter services. The resolution further requests that California veterinarians work with animal shelters and rescue groups to provide accessible spay and neuter services. Status: Enacted.

* indicates *The Humane Society of the United States* is sponsoring the bill.



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