

Paw PAC

New address: PO Box 20425, El Sobrante, CA 94820. 510-222-2236 www.pawpac.org info@pawpac.org

2011 CALIFORNIA ANIMAL LEGISLATION as of September 11, 2011

Next Legislative Meeting: September 19, 10:30 to 12:30, Room 115, State Capitol Building, Sacramento.

The Legislature is closing for the year. Governor Brown must sign/veto the following bills by **October 9 2011**.

Write: Governor Jerry Brown, State Capitol Suite 1173, Sacramento, CA 95814. **Tel:** 916-445-2841

Website Contact Form: http://gov.ca.gov/m_contact.php

ASSEMBLY

AB 42 by Jared Huffman re: State Parks. **Support.**

Authorizes agreements with non-profit organizations for the care and maintenance of state parks of which 70 may be closed due to budget cuts.

Write: Governor Brown. Tell him AB 42 will save some of our state parks. Closing them invites poachers.

AB 258 by Curt Hagman re: Rabies. **Support.**

Allows exemption of rabies shot requirement for dogs with medical conditions as determined by a vet.

Write: Governor Brown. Tell him dog rabies is rare here and the shots are sometimes not recommended.

AB 376 by Paul Fong and Jared Huffman re: Sharks. **Support.**

Prohibits possession and sale of shark fins.

Write: Governor Brown. Tell him shark populations are threatened by the cruel practice of cutting off fins and throwing their amputated bodies back into the sea. Over 73 million are killed for soup.

AB 564 by Cameron Smyth re: Spay/Neuter Tax Check-Off. **Support.**

Re-authorizes the state tax check-off for spay/neuter to be distributed as grants to municipal shelters.

Write: Governor Brown. Tell him the check-off is a great way for tax payers to fight pet overpopulation, save lives, and result in lowering the cost of animal control.

AB 606 by Mike Gatto re: Hunting. **Oppose.**

Requires the Fish and Game Dept to allow hunting on land under the Wildlife Conservation Board.

Write: Governor Brown. Tell him AB 606 is a power grab by hunters to gain control of our state's land, wildlife, Fish and Game Commission/Dept and the Wildlife Conservation Board. Fish and Game Commission already has too many official pro-hunting policies and the members are hunters. Ranchers sell expensive access for "late season" trophy hunts through Fish and Game. Under AB 606, Wildlife Conservation Board land, which may include these "hunting clubs" must be open to hunting unless there's a compelling reason not to allow it. The reverse should apply. AB 606 has nothing to do with bird watching or any other "wildlife dependent activity" but everything to do with hunting and money.

AB 634 by Alyson Huber re: Wildlife. **Oppose.**

Authorizes the use of carbon monoxide for the next five years in the killing of burrowing wildlife considered “pests”, such as gophers.

Write to Governor Brown. Tell him this is inhumane.

AB 853 by Paul Fong and Jared Huffman re: Sharks. **Oppose.**

Guts and amends an unrelated education bill to allow sales of stockpiles until July 2013 of shark fins by anyone (which includes the live animal markets, the major source of shark fins) if possessed before January 2012. Requires the Ocean Protection Council to submit an annual report to the Legislature listing “any shark species that have been independently certified to meet internationally accepted standards for sustainable seafood.” AB 853 goes into effect only if AB 376 also passes.

Write: Governor Brown. Tell him while AB 376 stops the sale at markets in 2012, AB 853 allows it for another year and a half. It is an invitation for poaching and stockpiling.

AB 971 by Bill Monning re: Sea Otters. **Support.**

Extends the Sea Otter tax check-off for another five years.

Write: Governor Brown. Tell him sea otters need the Fund to protect them and their habitat.

AB 1117 by Cameron Smyth re: Cruelty. **Support.**

Strengthens existing law on confiscation and holding of animals in cruelty cases and imposes a \$1000 fine if the perpetrator violates a judge’s order not to have animals.

Write: Governor Brown. Tell him AB 1117 will help keep animal abusers away from animals and help confiscated animals from being held for months as court evidence.

AB 1121 by Richard Pan re: Dog Licenses. **Support.**

Authorizes local animal control agencies to require puppies to be licensed. Requires breeders (as defined under current law: selling 20 dogs or 3 litters per year), rescue groups, humane societies, and pet shops to report adopters/buyers’ names every month to animal control so they can enforce licensing requirements.

Write: Governor Brown. Tell him puppies need identification for their own safety. Licensing will reduce animal control costs for shelters suffering budget cutbacks.

AB 1279 by Nathan Fletcher re: Animal Shelters. **Support.**

Amends existing law to replace “pound” with “animal shelter”, “destroy” to “euthanasia” and “unwanted” to “surrendered.”

Write: Governor Brown. Tell him terms “pound” / “destroy” should be updated. The term “pound” is never on any animal shelter sign or listed with information. By law, shelter animals must be killed humanely, not “destroyed.”

SENATE

SB 164 by Joe Simitian re: Endangered Species Tax Check-Off. **Support.**

Extends the Rare and Endangered Species Program Tax Check-Off to 2018.

Write: Governor Brown. Tell him the Endangered Species Tax Check-Off, like the Spay/Neuter Check-Off, is successful with the public’s efforts to protect animals, wild and domestic.

SB 425 by Ron Calderon re: Animal Fighting. **Support.**

Establishes minimum fines for dog/cock fighting and allows for property forfeitures for cock fighting as is currently provided for dog fighting.

Write: Governor Brown. Tell him minimal fines are considered the cost of business. Increased fines and property forfeiture will enhance compliance and enforcement.

SB 702 by Ted Lieu re: Microchips. **Support.**

Requires dogs to be microchipped when adopted or reclaimed from animal control shelters.

Write: Governor Brown. Tell him dogs need microchip identification for their own protection.

SB 752 by Tom Berryhill re: Hunting. **Oppose.**

Requires Fish and Game Dept, if requested by the licensee, to release contact information to hunting organizations when selling hunting licenses.

Write: Governor Brown. Tell him SB 752 is a bad precedent for hunting organizations to make a government agency a repository for contact info to private organizations. Hunters claim to be environmentalists but no environmental organization is included in SB 752.

SB 769 by Jean Fuller re: Mountain Lions. **Neutral.**

Allows exhibition of legally killed mountain lions for education or science.

Sent to Governor Brown.

DEFEATED/DROPPED/POSTPONED

(Many of these are expected to be brought up again in 2012)

AB 88 by Jared Huffman re: Salmon. **Support.**

Requires labeling of genetically engineered salmon.

AB 610 by Jose Solorio re: Spay/Neuter License Plates. **Support.**

A pilot program to lower the number of license plate orders from 7,500 to 2,500 required for the program to begin and allow private donations to the spay/neuter fund.

AB 1046 by Bill Berryhill re: Hunting. **Oppose.**

Prohibits Fish & Game Commission to ban hunting.

AB 1162 by Wes Chesbro re: Poaching. **Support.**

Increases the maximum fine to \$40,000 for poaching wildlife or for using artificial light or bait for poaching trophy deer, elk, antelope, bighorn sheep. Wild turkey fine is \$2,000. Creates a new crime of using a "signal emitting device" when poaching bears to sell their parts (gall bladders) and fines them \$10,000 per part.

AB 1299 by Jared Huffman re: Fish. **Support.**

Declares it the policy of the state to conserve and restore forage fish such as herring, sardine, anchovy, squid, shrimp, plankton.

ACA 10 by Mike Gatto re: Initiatives. **Oppose.**

Allows the Legislature to amend an initiative after it has passed into law.

ACA 12 by Mike Gatto re: Initiatives. **Oppose.**

Allows the Legislature to propose amendments to an initiative before passage. If proponents agree with amendments, that is what will go on the ballot. If amendments are not accepted by proponents, the proposed amendments must be presented in the ballot materials.

SB 241 by Anthony Cannella re: Calif Environmental Quality Act. **Oppose.**

Sidesteps the judicial review process provided in the Calif Environmental Quality Act.

SB 580 by Lois Wolk re: Parks. **Support.**

Prohibits land acquired for state parks from being used or sold for non-park purposes.

SB 657 by Ted Gaines re: Suction Mining. **Oppose.**

Repeals prohibition of equipment which sucks up river and creek bottoms for gold, killing fish and emitting mercury and noise affecting wildlife in riparian habitats.

SB 697 by Bill Emmerson re: Veterinary Medicine. **Oppose.**

Sets up procedure to penalize non-veterinarians for treating animals.

PASSED INTO LAW

SB 917 by Ted Lieu re: Cruelty and Animal Sales. **Support.**

Makes criminal penalties consistent (possible felonies) for animal abuse and prohibits sales of animals on streets, parking lots, highways, carnivals, and boardwalks. Shelters and rescue groups are exempt.

SB 426 by Ron Calderon re: Animal Fighting. **Support.**

Allows eviction of tenants whose property is used for dog/cock fighting.

VETOED

SB 168 by Ellen Corbett re: Initiatives. **Oppose.**

Would have prohibited signature gatherers from being paid per signature. SB 168 would have made it more difficult for animal initiatives to qualify for the ballot.

EXPRESS YOUR SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION

Write/Email/Call: The bill's author, the Committee Chair, and your own Assembly Member and Senator, especially if he/she is a member of the Committee hearing the bill. All legislators and Governor: State Capitol Building, Sacramento, CA 95814. (Letters are still the best communication as legislators get too many emails.) Capitol Switchboard 916/322-9900 will give you phone numbers. Email addresses follow a formula: senator.pavley@ca.gov. or assemblymember.huffman@ca.gov. Your legislator can be found at www.leginfo.ca.gov/yourleg.html or look in your local phone book under State Government Assembly and Senate. Bills, analyses, and votes are available: www.leginfo.ca.gov. You can subscribe to bills and receive email updates on them. Governor Jerry Brown: 916/445-2841, www.govmail.ca.gov. Fax: 916/558-3160.

CALIFORNIA FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

1416 – 9TH St, Sacramento, CA 95814. 916/653-4899, www.fgc.ca.gov

Exotic Animal Regulations. Support.

The Department has proposed changes to regulations which will require the Dept. to inspect exotic animal facilities rather than allowing permittees' veterinarians to sign off declaring the facilities have met minimum housing and handling requirements.

Tell Commissioners it is a conflict of interest for veterinarians who receive money from permittees, such as Ringling Circus who opposes the proposed regs, to sign off on compliance. Nor should Fish and Game accept USDA inspections as a replacement for state inspections.

Fish and Wildlife Strategic Vision.

Under the passage of AB 2376 (Huffman) passed last year, committees have been formed to examine demands upon the Department of Fish and Game and Commission to protect California's wildlife, funding, science, partnerships, and conservation. For a schedule of these public meetings, see strategicvision@respirces/ca.gov

Write: Secretary of Resources John Laird, 1416 – 9th St, Sacramento, CA 95814, Assemblyman Jared Huffman and Governor Jerry Brown. Tell them 97% of Californians who don't hunt/fish have no representation in the Department or on the Commission. The Commission only takes recommendations from their Albert Taucher Advisory Committee, whose only interest is hunting. They need a John Muir Advisory Committee to represent environmental and animal protection interests.

CALIFORNIA STATE FAIR BOARD

1600 Exposition Ave., Sacramento, CA 95815. 916/263-3010. calexpoboard@calexpo.com.

Birthing Exhibits and Raccoon/Beaver on a Stick. Oppose.

In spite of the horrid shooting/killing of a pregnant cow who ran in panic, the State Fair continues to have birthing exhibits where cows, goats, sheep, and pigs in gestation crates give birth with people gawking. Plus, they are serving raccoon and beaver "on a stick" from fur farms and "maggot mash."

Tell the Board birthing exhibits subject animals to the stress of transportation and strange surroundings. Giving birth, all animals need and deserve quiet and privacy. Also, California does not permit fur farms, yet our State Fair supports them economically and ethically. Also, write: Senator Darrell Steinberg, ex-officio member of the Fair Board.

Subscribe to Paw PAC's legislative email alerts by emailing info@pawpac.org or call 510/222-2236. Your donation (not tax-deductible) to Paw PAC by mail or paypal allows us to publish alerts and our annual Voting Charts, maintain our website www.pawpac.org, make endorsements, testify at hearings, distribute position papers, and host monthly legislative meetings in the Capitol Building to which all animal advocates are welcome.

Legislative List compiled by: Virginia Handley, 510-222-2236. Feed back is welcome.