

Los Angeles Times

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I have two friends who bought puppies from different backyard breeders. Both puppies were in poor health, which resulted in high veterinarian bills. The breeders refused to help with the bills. Not only will AB 1634 help mitigate overpopulation, it will make these people clean up their acts. The conditions that some breeders keep animals in would make your stomach turn. Other businesses must carry a license and pay taxes. Many breeders are not licensed and not claiming this income. No wonder the breeders are lobbying hard to keep this bill from passing. Meanwhile, the puppies that don't sell or parents that are no longer useful for breeding are dumped at the pound on the taxpayer's dime, put down by the breeders or dumped on the street, where they can end up as bait for dog fighters. I know firsthand because I adopted one of those breeding "mommy" dogs. After she could no longer breed, at the age of 11, the breeder dropped her at the pound, along with five other "mommy" dogs.

RENE RUSTON
Westlake Village

Los Angeles Times Letters

Passing legislation to responsibly manage a problem spawned of human ignorance will go much farther than targeting those who have the heart-wrenching task of doing away with the problem. As a former animal shelter operations director, I find it incredible that people who truly love animals are forced to assume the emotional and physical burden of taking their lives — while others continue breeding animals like commodities for nothing more than love of their "personal freedom."

ZIBBY WILDER
Public Relations Director
Animal Protection Institute
Sacramento

Having been involved in animal rescue and education efforts my entire adult life, I am sick and tired of the same old absurd arguments against any attempts to regulate the behavior of those responsible. The specious arguments basically provide cover for selfish folks who just want to line their own pockets regardless of the cost to society.

There is also a public safety component to the bill, as altered animals are much less likely to roam and cause problems. The bill would also help curb the latest ridiculous trend of willy-nilly creating so-called designer dogs, purchased at high prices by clueless people who don't seem to realize they can adopt their own unique designer dog at a fraction of the cost at their local shelters.

DIANE CALKINS
Encinitas, Calif.

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There are those who feel they can do anything without consequences. Having been a recipient of the messes that large canines leave on my lawn, I would be most happy to support any effort such as Assemblyman Lloyd Levine's California Healthy Pets Act. I think the penalties should be much higher than the bill allows, but it is a start. The American Kennel Club can pull its annual Long Beach show, and it will hurt only those who truly take care of their pets, not the offenders. This is the club that should be in the forefront lobbying for good manners for all pets.

JUNE DURR
Westchester

Pet overpopulation is a disgraceful failure of society that lacks even a pretense of rationality. Depending on voluntary compliance with spay/neuter exhortations is insufficient. Mandatory spaying and neutering of dogs and cats, with appropriate exceptions as described in AB 1634, is the best hope to stop these excessive births from happening. Hopefully, this bill will pass and set a nationwide example for all states to emulate.

JOSEPH PASTORE
Flushing, N.Y.