



## CALIFORNIA STERILIZATION BILL DEFEATED

### The Issue.

PIJAC recently warned members that a dormant anti-pet California bill had been pulled from the “inactive file” and sent to the Assembly floor for a final vote in the closing days of the legislative session. Sounding the alarm, PIJAC urged swift action to shore up legislative opposition to this unprecedented mandate to sterilize all pet dogs, as well as outdoor cats. Pet owners, hobbyists and members of the pet trade responded with a deluge of phone calls and email. The result was defeat of Senate Bill 250.

### The Impact.

This legislation, [SB 250](#), was introduced in early 2009 and, if adopted, would have established California as the first and only state to ban ownership of unsterilized animals. A provision of the bill permitting limited availability of “unaltered dog licenses” was a cumbersome and expensive feature of the legislation that would have offered a nearly meaningless exemption.

Passing the Senate last year, the bill was stymied in the Assembly where, even with multiple amendments, it failed to garner sufficient support. However, the last minute maneuvering by the bill’s sponsor raised the threat of SB 250 sneaking through even as the legislature headed for adjournment. When an initial effort to pass the bill in late August was unsuccessful, a vote for reconsideration preserved the opportunity for one final attempt. Because of the tremendous opposition, this final tally resulted in even fewer ‘yes’ votes and the bill went down in defeat.

### PIJAC Position.

PIJAC has consistently opposed state enacted mandates for sterilization of pet animals. The decision to sterilize is one that should be made on a case-by-case basis by pet owners after consultation with their veterinarian, and pet owners should not be subject to punitive fees to keep their pet intact.

Pet “overpopulation” is a complex issue that cannot be solved with a one-size-fits-all mandate.

#### PIJAC Members! PIJAC Fans! Join US...

The Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC) has been protecting and promoting responsible pet ownership for nearly forty years. Follow our successes, events, and action alerts through Facebook and/or Twitter at PIJAC4pets. If you are not already a Member, please join us today by visiting [www.pijac.org/membership](http://www.pijac.org/membership). For additional information on PIJAC and its many exciting campaigns, please visit: [www.pijac.org](http://www.pijac.org) and [www.dontmesswithmypet.org](http://www.dontmesswithmypet.org). Or, contact us at 1-800-553-PETS (1-800-553-7387); [members@pijac.org](mailto:members@pijac.org).

**On behalf of pets, responsible pet owners, and the pet industry, we thank you!**