

California Bill Seeks to Limit Dog Ownership

State Senate's Committee on Public Safety will hear AB 241 on Thursday, July 2.

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The California Senate's Committee on Public Safety has postponed its hearing on AB 241, a bill that would limit the number of intact dogs and cats any person could own for breeding and selling as pets, from Tuesday, June 30 to Thursday, July 2.

Assembly Bill 241 would prohibit any person from having more than a combined total of 50 unsterilized dogs and cats that are kept for breeding or raised for sale as pets. Those in possession of more than that would have to spay or neuter the excess animals or sell, transfer or relinquish the animals within 30 days. If necessary, any euthanasia procedures would have to be performed by a licensed veterinarian or other qualified person as pursuant to regulations adopted by the Veterinary Medical Board.

AB 241 authorizes a peace officer, humane officer or animal control officer to take possession of any animal that is kept in violation. Violators would be guilty of a misdemeanor.

The Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC) has issued an alert stating that AB 241 would impose an "irrational ban on the possession of dogs and cats irrespective of the quality of care provided to the animals." PIJAC argues that there is no correlation between the size of a breeding facility and the quality of care provided to the animals. According to the organization, the only way to ensure humane care of animals is to establish and enforce reasonable standards under which breeders may keep them.

PIJAC specifically expressed concern that the bill would "require the euthanasia or relinquishment of dogs and cats that are perfectly healthy and being maintained with the best possible care in the finest facilities." PIJAC also claimed that the bill would increase the incidences of defects in dogs and cats by limiting the diversity in breeding stock.

In its alert, PIJAC called on members of the pet industry and the public to contact state Senators and members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety and speak out against the proposed bill.

[Click here to view the bill.](#)