

# THE ANIMAL COUNCIL

**P.O. Box 168, Millbrae CA 94030**

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April 29, 2010

FAX: 916-319-2188

The Honorable Mike Feuer  
Chair, Assembly Committee on Judiciary  
ATTENTION: Bill Consultant  
1020 N Street, Room 104  
Sacramento CA 95814

Re: AB 2743, amended April 28, 2010 Real property rentals. dogs, cats - OPPOSITION

Gentlemen:

This letter re-affirms our opposition, registered in our April 21 letter, to the April 28 amendments to bill for the reasons then stated and additionally as follows.

Amending the well understood word "debark" – simply reducing volume of barking – to the term "devocalize" being used by political opponents of this lawful veterinary procedure leads to inaccurate presumptions that a dog would be rendered silent. Rather debarked dogs retain a wide range of noise making abilities that can be annoying or disturbing to the legal public nuisance level in residential settings and law enforcement action against the owner and dog. Intentional use of other than plain language in legislation is troubling and problematic. Also, because pet keeping tenants are not a legally protected class, granting standing to enforce and obtain their own civil penalties to certain organizations only increases the incentive for landlords to bar all pets rather than risk the costs of dealing with adversarial, sometimes ideologically inclined organizations not otherwise interested in or a party to the tenancy. Lack of or loss of rental housing is a major relinquishment risk for pets, so that AB 2743 as amended April 28, creates additional barriers to rental housing for pet owners and new disincentives to landlords to individually negotiate pet rentals either at the beginning of or during tenancy. We respectfully ask that you reject this disingenuous bill as harmful to pets.

THE ANIMAL COUNCIL (TAC) is a California nonprofit, public benefit corporation founded in 1991 to seek positive, humane solutions to the challenges of detrimental animal public policies, legislation and regulation through study, analysis and application of animal husbandry, statistics and law, and at the same time preserve human benefit from all species, breeds and registries.

Very truly yours,

SHARON A. COLEMAN  
President, The Animal Council

Cc: Committee members  
Author

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