

THE ANIMAL COUNCIL

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May 1, 2012

The Honorable Christine Kehoe, Chair
The Honorable Mimi Walters, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Attention: Bill Consultant
State Capitol, Room 2206
Sacramento CA 95814

Re: SB 969, Pet Groomers, as amended April 26, 2012 – FISCAL CONCERN

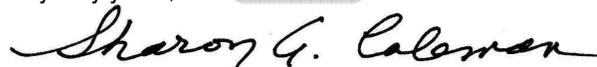
Dear Ms. Kehoe, Ms. Walters and Members:

We write to ask that your committee investigate and consider the fiscal impact of the current scheme of SB 969 on the actual pet grooming industry in California in relation to the author's concern to protect the public from occasional inexperienced, incompetent or unsupervised personnel. Pet grooming has been a "pink collar" profession conducted by sole proprietors or small businesses, typically by operators with far more "hands on" animal handling skills that anyone would gain in a formal grooming "curriculum". The entry of "big box" retailers by adding grooming service as a profit center has undoubtedly shifted the relative competencies of groomers in an otherwise legal business without the problems in the massage industry (prostitution, human trafficking, other criminal and zoning issues besides training and competence) being used as a model by the current bill iteration. Yet, the proposed Pet Grooming Council is overwhelmingly comprised of law enforcement rather than representation of the actual grooming profession – its educators, operators and independent organizations. What will be the fiscal impact on these actual California small businesses? What are the real costs of creating a so-called independent council? Who will pay these and ensure that the Council is effectively established and operated? What are the business competition implications of imposing this on an industry comprised of mainly small businesses and very large scale retailers?

We would think SB 969 might be a candidate for suspense to allow opportunity to evaluate these costs.

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: Author