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PAWS FOR LIFE
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Tri-Valley
Animal Rescue
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Giving Them Another Chance



August 5, 2024

Assemblymember Buffy Wicks
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8220
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 1233 (Wilk) - SUPPORT



Karen Spiegel
Riverside County Supervisor - 2nd District



Dear Chair Wicks and Committee Members,

On behalf of the California Animal Welfare Association (CalAnimals), representing more than 280 animal care and control agencies, SPCAs, humane societies, and other animal welfare organizations across the state, and joined specifically on this letter by 158 organizations, we are asking for your support of SB 1233.



SB 1233 requires that the University of California and the Western University of Health Sciences jointly develop standards and guidelines for high-quality, high-volume spay and neuter surgical (HQHVSN) techniques. The bill also requires that those institutions jointly implement the standards and guidelines in elective coursework for their respective veterinary medicine programs, and that a high-quality, high-volume spay and neuter certification program be made available to licensed veterinarians and registered veterinary technicians (RVTs).



Trained surgeons available to perform more HVHQS procedures are sorely needed throughout our state. A statewide veterinary shortage has limited shelters' ability to get animals altered and adopted in a timely fashion as well as provide necessary spay/neuter services to the public. As California residents struggle to find accessible and affordable means to sterilize their pets, the surplus litters of puppies and kittens are flooding our shelters, leading to significant overcrowding. Ensuring more veterinarians are trained to help tackle the critical issue of pet overpopulation would be a significant step forward for California.

We are grateful to Senator Wilk and the California Veterinary Medical Association for putting forth this legislation that will provide a pathway for veterinary professionals to be mentored in, and to begin using, the surgical techniques that will make the most efficient use of the limited veterinary resources available in California.

On behalf of the animals and people of California, we strongly urge you to advance this critically important legislation.

Sincerely,

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