



Senate Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development
ATTN: Staff Director: Bill Gage
1020 N Street, Room: 2053
Sacramento CA 95814

April 28, 2011

RE: SB 702 (Lieu) – Dog Licensing: Microchip Implants – OPPOSE as amended 3/23/11 and 4/27/11
Please include the California Responsible Pet Owners' Coalition/CaRPOC in the Analysis as OPPOSED

Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Developments:

We oppose SB 702 as amended and request inclusion on the Opposition List for the bill's analysis in your committee.

This bill would require that a dog, if impounded, be required to have a microchip implanted. Many owners are reluctant to have their dog microchipped because of well-documented studies, which have shown that:

- The site of implantation may become swollen or infected.
- The chip may fail or migrate in the animal's body.
- Tumors and cancers have developed at the site of implanted chips necessitating amputation and worse.
- There are many brands of chips and they operate on a range of frequencies from 125 to 134.2 kilohertz. Companies also make their own scanners and they often can't read the competition's chips.

Owners should have the option to have their own veterinarian have the dog's identification implanted or, if tattooed, applied. That option was removed with the most recent amendment.

The American Kennel Club (AKC) does not require a microchip for identification, only that the dog has some form of permanent identification. Providing an alternate form of permanent identifications, such as a nationally registered tattoo, would allay these concerns for the responsible dog owner. It would also eliminate agencies from unnecessary health liability or improper prosecution exposure.

Sincerely,

Stormy Hope
Vice President
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