



## *American Border Collie Association, Inc.*

82 Rogers Rd  
Perkinston, MS 39573  
(601)928-7551 Fax-(601)928-5148  
email- abca@datasync.com

April 14, 2007

The Honorable Mike Eng, Chair  
Assembly Committee on Business and Professions  
1020 N Street, Room 124  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Attn: Tracy Rhine, Committee Consultant -- FAX 916-319-3306

Re: AB 1634 (Levine) California Healthy Pets Act – OPPOSE

Dear Mr. Eng and Committee Members:

If enacted, the amended version of AB 1634 would wipe out California's stock dogs within two generations. Very few current working stock dogs would meet the conditions required for an intact permit, and none of their offspring would qualify for one. Here's why:

(1) The "licensed breeder" condition would not apply, because stock dogs are not owned by people doing business as dog breeders. These dogs are not breeding animals used by high volume breeders to churn out puppies. They are working dogs owned by ranchers, contract shepherds and other who use them primarily to manage livestock, and only secondarily (if their quality is high enough to merit being passed on) to produce future stock dogs.

(2) The "show or compete" condition would be met by only a few current stock dogs, because most stock dogs do not compete in dog shows and trials -- they work for a living -- and when they do compete, it's in stock dog trials where titles are not awarded. The condition would not apply at all to their offspring, because no stock dog is competent to compete by the age of four months. Stock work is skilled labor -- it requires physical maturity and extensive training, as well as innate ability. Thus, these offspring -- destined under this bill to be the last generation of California stock dogs -- would have to be neutered before their abilities could be recognized.

(3) The "guide/service/signal dog" condition would not apply, because stock dogs are not guide dogs, service dogs or signal dogs.

(4) The “law enforcement/rescue” condition would not apply, because stock dogs are not used for law enforcement or rescue work.

(5) The temporary “age, poor health, or illness” condition would not apply, because stock dogs are healthy physical specimens.

So there you have it. The stock dogs of today are useful in the management of livestock because they have been bred for it, from dogs who have themselves demonstrated the aptitude and ability to be useful stock dogs. You cannot have the stock dogs of tomorrow without breeding the stock dogs of today. If AB 1634 is enacted, therefore, you will have legislated out of existence the amazing sheepdogs and cattledogs of California, at enormous cost to the livestock producers and livestock industry of the state.

On behalf of our California members who rely on these dogs for their livelihood, we urge the defeat of AB 1634.

Sincerely yours,

Eileen Stein  
Director, American Border Collie Association