

Submitter:	Tonya Higgins DVM
On Behalf Of:	
Committee:	Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	SB1076

As a veterinarian I strongly support SB 1076, especially in regard to the Dept of Agriculture developing a licensing program for breeders of the animals specified in the bill. Organizations that provide for the care of homeless animals are currently registered and inspected to see that they meet legal standards of care. In my opinion, their licensing fees should be minimal. They make no profit from taking in these stray and unwanted animals - in fact they incur great expense to do the humane thing. Breeders purposely breed the specified animals for profit. It is a business. Most businesses are licensed and many have regulations which govern their business/profession. This should be especially true when the public purchases these animals as pets - they should be able to expect that the pets they buy have been bred and raised following accepted standards of care and humane treatment and that they will be healthy. A licensing program will set these standards and inspect for them, assuring that the welfare of these animals is a priority and that the public can expect that and expect to purchase a healthy animal. I strongly support this bill.