



BULLDOG CLUB OF AMERICA

Position Statement

“PUPS”

THE PUPPY UNIFORM PROTECTION AND SAFETY ACT

BCA opposes the Puppy Uniform Protection and Safety Act (currently before the House and Senate) for its overreaching, overbroad and unnecessary regulation of hobby and show breeders. A complete copy of the bills can be found on the Library of Congress website (<http://www.thomas.loc.gov>).

The bill attempts to address the issue of retail sales over the Internet by commercial breeders who used to sell only through commercial channels. This enables them to avoid AWA standards and inspections. However, the approach chosen affects other small breeders and will make impossible the continued breeding of purebred dogs by hobby and show breeders.

We urge all of the BCA membership to write, call, fax and email their Senators and Representatives to ask that they oppose this bill or withdraw their support. If you don't know the names of your legislators, you can go to the BCA website to use the NAIA Trust CAPWIZ tools to find your legislators. Then click on the names and on the “Contact” Link to get an e-mail form or their s-mail addresses.

BCA Opposes this bill for the following reasons:

The definition of “Co-ownership” is too broad. Anyone with “an ownership interest in or custody of one or more breeding female dogs” may become a “high volume retail breeder” under the law based on dogs living with other people. This definition does not take into account co- and joint ownerships common among dog owners, dog show participants, hunting club members, sporting dog trainers and other hobbyists.

The law defines “breeding female” as an intact female dog aged 4 months or older. This is misleading and implies that a female dog may be bred at 4 months. Female dogs are not sufficiently mature at 4 months of age to be bred.

Licensing and adherence to AWA standards will be required for breeders raising dogs in homes, even though the AWA standards do not currently apply to small breeders who sell through retail and are inconsistent with and inapplicable to a home environment.

The passage will reduce the availability of quality puppies meeting breed standards for purchase by the public since even responsible hobby and hobby and show breeders will not be able to comply with the arbitrary standards.

The law fails to address current deficient conditions in known substandard kennels of AWA violators. PUPS would exponentially expand the pool of breeders regulated and inspected by the Animal Care division of the United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Animal, Plant and Health Inspection Service (APHIS). *However, a May 2010 audit of this program by the USDA’s own Inspector General demonstrated that the existing inspections program is insufficient to carry out current responsibilities. BCA believes these issues and full funding for the current program should be addressed before attempting to exponentially expand the program’s responsibilities and workload.*

The exercise requirements are not supported by scientific evidence and prohibit typical exercise in sporting and working kennels. The exercise language should be clarified with respect to the terms “solitary and goal oriented” to ensure that the daily exercise requirements do not preclude training that involves other types of activity as well (e.g., solitary exercise on a lead or on a treadmill).