



The California Sportsman's Lobby, Inc.



caldeer.org



March 29, 2021

The Honorable Evan Low, Chair
Assembly Business and Professions Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 379
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 702 (Santiago) – OPPOSE

Dear Assembly Member Low:

Our organizations, which collectively represent hundreds of thousands of hunters and other outdoor enthusiasts, oppose AB 702 (Santiago), which would prohibit someone from maintaining a dog kennel for breeding purposes without first obtaining a breeder permit, as determined by the local jurisdiction, and subject to a fee.

This bill would place unnecessary restrictions and costs on the breeding of dogs used for hunting, field trialing and other legitimate sporting purposes. The dogs used in conjunction with these activities are highly valued (e.g. the cost of an 8 week old, untrained puppy can run

into the thousands of dollars) and are typically the result of careful selection and breeding over many generations; all necessary care is taken to ensure their health and well-being. They rarely, if ever, end up in shelters or pose a public nuisance, safety, or health issue.

AB 702 gives local jurisdictions too much power and discretion over whether or not to issue a breeder permit. Many of the breeder standards mandated under the bill are highly subjective, including those for the types of required shelter, food and water, and the local jurisdiction could refuse to issue a permit for a variety of reasons. For the bill's other standards, it is unclear whether many have any scientific or other data-driven evidence to support them.

It should also be noted that AB 702 specifically authorizes a local jurisdiction to adopt and enforce more restrictive breeding requirements than what is otherwise provided in the bill.

In its current form, AB 702 does not appropriately target problem dog breeders and would instead put added burdens and costs on legitimate breeders, which could cause some to cease their operations entirely. For those who are able to stay in business, they would necessarily pass on many of the costs to consumers, which would make it even more difficult for the average person to afford a hunting or sporting dog.

For these reasons, please oppose AB 702 when it is considered by your committee.

Sincerely,

Randall S. Walker
President, California Sportsman's Lobby

Lisa C. McNamee, Legislative Coordinator
SCI CA Coalition

Mark Hennelly, Vice President of Legislative Affairs
California Waterfowl

Randall Walker, President
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Dan Whisenhunt, CEO
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Chris Bowles, President
California Bowman Hunters Association and State Archery Association

Steve Chappell, Executive Director
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Steve Miller, President
Tulare Basin Wetlands Association

Gary Brennan, President
San Diego County Wildlife Federation

Fred Harpster, President
The Black Brant Group

Adam Chavez, President
California Hawking Club

Lori Jacobs, President
California Houndsmen for Conservation

Blake Henning, Chief Conservation Officer
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation,

Keely Hopkins, Western States Coordinator
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation

Cathie Nelson, President
San Francisco Bay Area Chapter - Safari Club International

Don Martin, President
California Chapter – Wild Sheep Foundation

Cc: Members, Assembly Business and Professions Committee