



Colorado Veterinary
Medical Association

**Testimony before the House Local Government Committee
In regard to HB 09-1019
January 22, 2009**

Good morning, Chairman Soper and members of the committee. My name is Dr. Jed Rogers; I am a veterinarian from Denver and president of the Colorado Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA). On behalf of CVMA and its 2,200 members, I am here to testify in favor of House Bill 09-1019 concerning cat identification in the state of Colorado.

There are four key reasons why CVMA supports this legislation:

- The proposed requirements will increase the health and well-being of cats throughout the state by increasing the chances that lost cats will be returned to their homes. The current rate of reuniting lost cats with their owners – which hovers around a dismally low 5% – is simply not good enough, and this timely bill can help make a difference.
- We also believe that the requirement for identification will increase responsible cat ownership, increase the standard of care for cats, and increase the value that owners and communities place on the cats they adopt.
- We do not believe that this bill will create hardships for Colorado communities – we believe in the long run it will actually save money through lower numbers of stray and abandoned cats that must be housed, treated, and euthanized by local animal care and control agencies.
- Although the provisions of the bill are required in larger communities, the language does not prevent smaller communities from adopting the requirements should they so choose, making it a truly statewide initiative that is available to all of the communities in which our members live.

For CVMA, it is clear that requiring cat identification is in the best interest of animals, people, and communities in Colorado. CVMA encourages you to vote YES on this bill – it will have a significant positive impact on the lives of people and their cats.

Thank you for the opportunity to present these remarks.

191 Yuma Street
Denver, Colorado 80223
303.318.0447 fax 303.318.0450
www.colovma.org
info@colovma.org