



Colorado Veterinary
Medical Association

**Testimony before the House Agriculture, Livestock, and Natural Resources Committee
In regard to HB 09-1172 (Pet Animal Care and Facilities Act)
February 4, 2009**

Good morning, Chairman Curry 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 this bill.

There are three key reasons why CVMA supports this legislation:

- We feel that large-scale breeding kennels can not adequately exercise or socialize puppies. It is clear to us that animals raised in larger facilities do not receive as much individual attention as they need. Because of this, they may lack appropriate temperament and may not bond to future owners as well as better socialized dogs.
- It is a fact that a breeding age female dog can have two litters every single year – but doing so can be a risky proposition when dogs continue to be bred while in poor physical condition. Given this risk, coupled with the impact on animal health that can be caused by Colorado's extreme environmental conditions, we feel that breeding dogs should be examined by the attending veterinarian at least twice a year. The veterinarian should be licensed to practice in the state of Colorado, should have a valid relationship with both the client (the owner or manager of the facility) and with the patient (the dog), and must base breeding soundness on a physical examination of the patient. The amendments proposed today will make certain that a certification of breeding soundness cannot be merely mailed into Colorado for a dog that is never even given a physical examination.
- Ultimately, the veterinary profession exists to protect the health and well-being of the animals we see each and every day. With respect to this legislation, we believe that concerns related to the health and welfare of each individual dog have to be considered above all else. If the dogs aren't cared for properly, for us there are no other discussions to have.

CVMA believes that HB 09-1172 has merit and will improve the lives of animals in the state of Colorado. CVMA encourages you to vote YES on this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to present these remarks.

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