

July 14, 2014

I am submitting this letter for my comment on the "Petition For Administrative Rulemaking To Amend The Regulations Regarding The Breeding And Possession Of Hybrid Cats" submitted to the California Department Of Fish And Wildlife in July 2014.

I have 9 years experience with hybrid cats and also many more years with rescued cats from shelters. I am not a cat breeder. I find hybrid cats to be the most intelligent cat I have ever been around. They are highly affectionate and constantly want to be with their family members. They are playful with children and happy to meet visitors in the home. I have been able to care for my cats without any incidents and they are neutered, microchipped and vaccinated. I believe I am a responsible pet owner and a good citizen and should be able to keep my cats and share my home with my pets.

I am quite active in the hybrid cat community and it has been my experience that responsible breeders of these cats have a contract with buyers and require the pets to be neutered and always kept the cat indoors. I believe this is a great proactive way to keep the cats safe. Shelters are filled with stray cats from people who do not spay or neuter their cats. Hybrid cats should not be blamed for shelter overcrowding that has been a problem growing for many years prior to these cats being popular.

The breeders of these cats typically neuter/spay the animals that they retire from their breeding program and rehome them as pets, and they are not cruelly discarded as written in the petition.

In the petition it is requested that people register their cats and prove generational data by pedigree. I am quite worried about this because most pet owners do not register their pedigree papers because they have no plans to show their pets. Also, any hybrid cats obtained from shelters as rescued pets will not have a pedigree available. What will happen to these cats? How can this type of law be good for these animals that already live in loving homes?

The Code Of Federal Regulations, Title 9, Chapter 1, Sec 1.1, Edition 1-1-14, (beginning on page 9 at the bottom) defines the cross between a wild animal species and a domestic animal to be considered domestic. I believe the sets a valid precedence for our state to follow.

Before ruling on the submitted petition for banning these cats, I ask you to please use statistical data comparing all breeds of domestic cats, such as incidents of injuries, numbers in shelters etc. Please do not make decision on anecdotal stories relayed in the petition. The petitioners should provide facts with real numbers as they relate to California. There are negligent breeders and pet owners in the whole animal world and hybrid cats should not be singled out and targeted for ban or regulation as a result of a small number of irresponsible and cruel people.

I believe the training and administration logistics dictated by this proposed ban will be a drain on California taxpayers and California Department Fish and Wildlife that the proposed nominal licensing fees will not recoup.

I believe this petition to regulate hybrid cats is not needed. I do NOT support this petition.

Sincerely,



Kathy Gagliano



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