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I wish to state my opposition to the proposed ban of domestic hybrid cats in the state of California. The proponents of the ban make many false claims against these cats. Most importantly, I ask you to require evidence from the proponents of this ban before even considering their "facts".

These cats are NOT wild cats. They include Bengals, Savannahs and Chausies. These are domestic cats fully recognized by The International Cat Association (TICA) and shown in cat shows all over the US, Europe and Japan alongside other domestic breeds such as Siamese and Persians. All generations of these cats are recognized by the U.S.D.A as domestic cats.

These cats are NOT turned away by shelters because of the unlikelihood of their adoption. The Bengal is TICA's most popular cat. These cats are not unwanted! Marilyn Krieger conducted and published a survey in the September 2007 issue of Tufts University, Catnip Newsletter of different breed-specific rescues to determine the reason cats were surrendered and abandoned. The results of which showed other rescue groups had more cats surrendered for behavior problems than Bengal rescue groups and that other rescue groups had more cats that could not be rehabilitated than the Bengal group.

When it comes to the dealing with the health of domestic hybrid cats, they do not suffer any more or less than many other breeds. The Merck Veterinary manual states the following:

Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy is one the most common primary heart disease diagnosed in cats, but it is rare in dogs. It is familial in many breeds of cats, including Persians, Sphynx, Norwegian Forest Cats, Bengals, Turkish Vans, and American and British Shorthairs. As in Maine Coons and Ragdolls, the mode of inheritance is thought to be autosomal dominant. The disease is seen in cats from 3 mo to 17 yr of age, although most cats are middle aged at the time of presentation.

Feline Infectious peritonitis (FIP) is immune-mediated disease triggered by infection with a feline coronavirus. The Merck Veterinary Manual states this is frequently found in cats and Coronavirus-specific antibodies are present in as many as 90% of cats in catteries and in as many as 50% of those in single-cat households.

*Tritrichomonas Foetus* can be found in cats with chronic colitis middle-aged and more commonly purebred.

These are not Hybrid cat issues these are normal wellness issues in all breeds of cats.

These cats will NOT mate with ferals and create a "super breed" of hunters. Early generation males are sterile until the f5/6 generation. Although some cats may be sold to other breeders unaltered, the overwhelming majority are sold as pets and come either spayed or neutered or the owners are required to do so contractually.

The truth is these breeds are not different from other pet cats. They are intelligent, active and make great companions. As with all cats, many factors affect a cat's behavior. Individuals should research any breed if they are interested in adopting to ensure that they can provide a loving home and a good fit within their home. A ban on these cats would have a huge impact on their many owners, breeders and fans who love and appreciate them.

This petition is misleading and inaccurate.

Sincerely,

*Lorraine Stevens*

Lorraine Stevens

