



UNITED ANIMAL NATIONS

A not-for-profit, charitable organization.

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Tips on Writing Advocacy Letters

- Find your state and federal elected officials by entering your zip code at: www.congress.org
- Click on the desired legislator to get his/her contact information, bills he/she sponsored, committee memberships, etc.
- How to address your letter:

The Honorable (Name of Legislator)
(Your State Name) State (Senate/Assembly/House of Representatives)
State Capitol Building Room _____
City, State, ZIP Code

The salutation is "Dear Senator/Assemblyperson/Representative (Last Name)"

- In your letter, be sure to include the following:
 - a. The purpose of the bill you are supporting/opposing
 - b. Your position (support or oppose) on the bill
 - c. Your organization affiliation (if any)
 - d. Why the bill is important to you and/or your community
- Make sure your letter is clear and concise.
- Double-check facts and proofread your letter before submitting.
- See next page for a sample letter

Bringing animals out of crisis and into care.

February 24, 2009

Assembly Member Pedro Nava
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0035
Fax: (916) 319-2135

VIA FACSIMILE

RE: Support for AB 241, limiting the number of intact cats or dogs a breeder can maintain to 50

Dear Assembly Member Nava,

I am writing to support AB 241, a bill that would limit the number of intact cats or dogs a breeder can maintain to 50.

I am a member of/supporter of/volunteer with United Animal Nations (UAN), a non-profit animal protection organization with a mission to bring animals out of crisis and into care. One way UAN does this is by operating the volunteer-driven Emergency Animal Rescue Service (EARS), which provides temporary shelter for animals displaced by natural disasters or criminal seizures. In the last year alone, UAN deployed EARS volunteers to six incidents in which large numbers of animals were removed from unsanitary, unhealthy and inhumane mass breeding operations.

In February, EARS volunteers cared for 300 small-breed dogs removed from a mass breeding facility in Wayne County, North Carolina. The dogs suffered from serious medical ailments and were housed in filthy conditions. Many were emaciated, had untreated lacerations, severely matted fur and serious skin and eye infections. Some were so matted, they could not even defecate. It was obvious that many of the dogs had been confined to their wire cages their entire lives – in some cases as long as eight years. The local animal control agency could not care for 300 animals in need of critical care, so it turned to UAN and other non-profit agencies to help the community bear the burden caused by one out-of-control breeder.

Commercial breeding operations, if left unregulated and permitted to grow too large, can negatively impact the community, animals and local law enforcement agencies. When officials must seize animals from a breeding operation and take responsibility for the dogs, municipal animal shelters, which are typically already overwhelmed with unwanted animals, become burdened with hundreds more.

AB 241 will help ease the burden on local agencies and animal welfare organizations by preventing commercial dog breeding operations from becoming emergency situations. I thank you for introducing this important legislation and wholeheartedly support its passage.

Sincerely,

(Your name)
(Your address)
(City, State, Zip code)
(Phone number)