



Californians Against Pet Cloning

P.O. Box 188890 | Sacramento, CA 95818
(916) 429-2457 tel | (916) 429-2456 fax
info@nopetcloning.org email
www.nopetcloning.org web

COALITION SEEKS BAN ON SALE OF CLONED AND GENETICALLY MODIFIED PETS

Legislation would stop companies from selling manufactured dogs and cats

CONTACT: Crystal Strait, Office of Assemblyman Levine, (916) 319-2040 or (916) 717-6413
Crystal Miller-Spiegel, AAVS, (215) 370-5585
Alexis Raymond, UAN, (916) 429-2457 or (916) 204-3831

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SACRAMENTO, CA (February 9, 2005) – Californians Against Pet Cloning (CAPC) today joined with Assemblyman Lloyd Levine (D-Van Nuys) to introduce legislation to ban the sale of cloned and genetically modified pets in California. Citing animal welfare and consumer protection concerns about current commercial efforts to market and sell cloned and genetically modified pets, Assemblyman Levine stated, "Playing mad scientists behind closed doors, these companies couldn't care less about the suffering inflicted on animals or on pet lovers that are conned into thinking \$50,000 will bring back their beloved companion."

The bill, which will be introduced in the California legislature this session, would prohibit the sale of cloned and genetically engineered pets.

"Hundreds of cats and dogs have been used in cloning experiments that have resulted in only a handful of viable cloned cats," said Crystal Miller-Spiegel, Senior Policy Analyst with the American Anti-Vivisection Society (AAVS), a founding CAPC member. "Scientists widely acknowledge that cloning is plagued by high death rates, and yet unregulated, private companies are forging ahead for profit, outpacing the vital discourse among scientists, policymakers, legislators and the public."

Despite these concerns, some pet cloning companies are currently marketing for sale cloned and genetically modified cats for prices ranging from \$5,000 to \$50,000. Companies also offer cat and dog DNA "banking" for costs ranging from \$295 to \$1,395, plus annual storage fees, and aim to profit from consumers hoping to clone their dogs, even though no dog ever has been cloned successfully.

"Having just lost my beloved yellow Labrador to cancer, I can tell you no 'clone' would in any way replace the individual that was my dog," said Jennifer Fearing, president of United Animal Nations (UAN), a founding member of CAPC. "More than one million animals are euthanized in California shelters in a given year. To think that a company might have offered this pricy solution to my grief, even though a cloned animal would have as much chance of looking and acting like my dog as any one of the dozens of yellow Labs sitting in animal shelters across the state, sickens me."

CAPC seeks to inform California citizens about the consumer protection, animal welfare and ethical issues related to pet cloning. The coalition, led by AAVS, the International Center for Technology Assessment and UAN, has already received verbal support from more than a dozen national organizations and expects to be joined by animal welfare leaders, consumer protection advocates, scientists, animal sheltering professionals, bioethicists, veterinarians and others concerned about the current efforts to market and sell cloned and genetically modified companion animals for profit.

To learn more about the facts of the pet cloning industry and about the new legislation, visit www.NoPetCloning.org.

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