

CVMA ACTION ALERT

The CVMA is strongly opposed to AB 2743-NAVA

AB 2743 seeks to prohibit a landlord from requiring a tenant, to have their animal “declawed” or “devocalized” as a condition of rental occupancy. While the CVMA is supportive of the overall goal in this bill, we have taken a “strongly oppose” position because of several key sections in the current version of the bill. Specifically, language in the bill:

- **States that declawing has been associated with unintended behavioral consequences that could lead to public health and safety concerns.** These claims are not only incorrect, but they are scientifically unfounded. There is no proven relationship between a cat declaw procedure and the impact on public safety. All cats whether declawed or not, have the ability to bite, soil, scratch, etc., but again, these behaviors certainly do not rise to the level of a “public health and safety concern.”
- **Improperly defines the terms “non-therapeutic”, “declawing” and “devocalization”.** These definitions set the stage for future legislation to limit the veterinarian-client-patient relationship. The intent of the bill is to prohibit a landlord from stipulating that an animal must be declawed or devocalized, as a condition of tenancy. It is irrelevant if the procedure is being performed for “non-therapeutic” reasons. “Declawing” would be prohibited for any “non-therapeutic” reasons, which include “reasons of perceived need or convenience in keeping an animal.” The CVMA believes this language means an elderly or immunocompromised person who cannot risk being scratched could not own a cat.

Our legislative team has been working with the author and sponsors of this bill for several months to develop sound and meaningful legislation. However, the bill still contains language that is unacceptable. As a result, we must oppose this poorly crafted legislation in its current form.

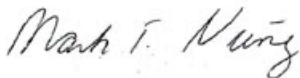
The Senate Judiciary Committee passed AB 2743 by a vote of three to two along party lines on Tuesday, June 15. The bill could be voted on by the full Senate as early as June 21.

Time is short - please take action today. Send personal letters to your state senator and the Governor asking them to oppose this bill. Go to www.CVMA.net and click on the link in the Action Alert at the top of the homepage for a link to the bill and contact information for your state senator and the Governor. The letter should be on your practice letterhead, and we would appreciate it if you would fax the CVMA a copy of your letter as well to (916) 646-9156.

It is imperative that the voice of the veterinary profession is heard. Veterinarians should never be placed in a position where the healthcare of their patients is compromised by poorly written legislation.

If you have any questions, please call the CVMA office at 1(800) 655-2862.

Thank you for your assistance,



Mark Nunez, DVM
CVMA President