

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

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**Comments for Public Posting:** I've owned dogs for almost 30 years and I'm also from California. While I understand there's issues with the LA shelter system, restrictions on breeders licenses is not the answer. If anything, a lack of licenses will drive residents to look for puppies in unlicensed & unregulated sources such as through sites like Craigslist or substandard kennels in other countries. It's also been documented that dogs imported from overseas have introduced Canine flu to the United States and rescues that continue to import these dogs run the risk of introducing highly contagious diseases to the US, including the state of California. Not only are there various illnesses and parasites that can be spread amongst dogs but they can also jump to humans resulting in public health risks that would likely not be all that different than Covid-19, Ebola, Monkey pox and other outbreaks that have rose up in recent years. When the sales of dogs, cats and rabbits in pet stores was outlawed in California, potential dog owners were forced to look out of state when they weren't able to find local breeders. This also did nothing to reduce the number of dogs in shelters, including Los Angeles. The number of dogs advertised on Craigslist increased. There is also the issue of retail rescues which obtain dogs from outside of California, one of which is from dog auctions in the Midwest and then advertise them as rescued from puppy mills. This is only importing more dogs into the state rather than helping the ones in local shelters. In addition, there's been an increase in dog theft, which is tied to a higher demand of certain breeds but a lack of availability. As someone who plans to raise puppies as service dogs in the future, not being able to have a breeder license will jeopardize being able to provide a much needed service for disabled people. Breeders who reside in Los Angeles deserve to be able to provide puppies to customers that are looking for a dog that fits their household that they can't find via shelters or rescues. Please reconsider suspending breeders licenses so that local breeders can continue to raise the breeds they love and provide pets, service dogs, etc to LA residents for years to come.