



## NOVA SCOTIA DUCK TOLLING RETRIEVER CLUB (USA)

Julie Hanson  
President

15605 NE 194<sup>th</sup> Court

Brush Prairie, WA 98606-7735

Telephone: (360) 892-0521 E-Mail: [Kilcreek0521@msn.com](mailto:Kilcreek0521@msn.com)

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June 20, 2007

Mark Ridley-Thomas - Chairman

**Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee**

State Capitol, Room 4061

Sacramento, CA 95814

**OPPOSE: AB 1634**

Dear Senator Ridley-Thomas,

The Officers and Directors of the Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Club (USA) are **opposed** to **California AB 1634, as narrowly passed in the California Assembly**. As a national organization representing the welfare of the Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever and the interests of our members and breeders, we feel compelled to express our concerns, most particularly the concerns voiced by our members who reside in California.

Our breed, commonly called Tollers, is a relatively rare breed and has been recognized by the American Kennel Club for less than five years. Our club has worked tirelessly for more than twenty years to promote responsible ownership and responsible breeding. We believe that education and leading by example are the keys to responsible ownership, not restrictive laws mandating early spay/neuter as have been proposed in AB 1634. In reality, the law as proposed appears to be virtually unenforceable. To even attempt enforcement would result in a huge expenditure of the state's appropriations that most assuredly could be better utilized in other areas such as the education or health care of your citizens.

The NSDTRC (USA) Board of Directors approved holding our National Specialty in 2008 in Claremont, CA. In light of AB 1634 moving forward to the California Senate and the **Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee**, we have no choice but to put our plans on hold in the near term. We may very well move our event to another state that is friendly. So that you better understand what our National Specialty entails, this event lasts for five days with exhibitors, their Tollers and spectators coming from throughout the United States, Canada, and frequently from Europe and Australia. We offer the traditional venues of a dog show (Conformation, Obedience, Agility) plus educational seminars, health clinics, banquets, and public education. Because the majority of those in attendance have traveled considerable distances and the event lasts close to a week, many take time to explore the host city and state, greatly contributing to the local economy.

We have heard from several of our members who have curtailed their plans to attend the 2007 AKC/Eukanuba National Invitational in Long Beach in December 2007. We have also heard from members from throughout the United States that if AB 1634 becomes law, they will not travel to California with their Tollers. We respectfully ask that the members of the **Business, Professions and**

**Economic Development Committee** oppose AB 1634 so that we can resume our plans to host our 2008 National Specialty in California, and continue to support events in your state

To reiterate and expand our opposition to AB 1634:

- Mandatory spay/neuter is an ineffective solution to animal control problems because it fails to address the heart of the issue—irresponsible ownership.
- These laws are extremely difficult to enforce and expensive to the taxpayers and can be evaded by irresponsible animal owners by not licensing their pets.
- It is a detriment to responsible breeders who raise healthy, well cared-for dogs and work to ensure that puppies are placed with responsible owners.
- Hosting or attending dog shows and events in California is not in the best interest of our members or our national organization.

We respectfully ask that you support responsible owners and breeders by opposing AB 1634.

On behalf of the NSDTRC (USA) Board of Directors,

Julie Hanson, President

cc: Cindy Lindemer, Secretary –NSDTRC (USA)  
Senator Bob Margett, 29<sup>th</sup> District