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March 23, 2021

The Honorable Evan Low
Chair, Assembly Business and Professions Committee
State Capitol, Room 4126
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 384 (Kalra): Cannabis and cannabis products: animals: veterinary medicine.
NOTICE OF SUPPORT**

The California Cannabis Industry Association (CCIA) supports Assembly Bill 384 by Assemblymember Ash Kalra. This bill permits veterinarians to recommend cannabis products for therapeutic benefits for pets, and allows cannabis products to be manufactured and sold explicitly for pet use under the Medicinal and Adult Use Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (MAUCRSA).

Research has identified cannabis as useful for addressing pain, anxiety, inflammation, nausea, loss of appetite, and seizures in pets¹. For the 6.5 million animals that enter U.S. shelters each year², therapeutic cannabis may reduce the anxiety and behavioral issues that are caused by abandonment and abuse, ultimately increasing successful adoptions and saving pet lives.

However, an omission in current law makes it difficult for pet parents and rescuers to access therapeutic cannabis for pets. It is unclear that veterinarians can recommend cannabis products for pet use. The same omission prohibits the sale of cannabis products with labeling or instructions to guide pet parents in use and dosing for their pets. In the past year, the California Department of Public Health and the Bureau of Cannabis Control have taken enforcement actions against therapeutic cannabis products that might be useful for pets.

AB 384 will allow veterinarians to recommend cannabis as a therapy for pets, whereas current law only allows veterinarians to discuss cannabis without offering clear recommendations about specific products or dosage. This bill will also bring all cannabis products intended for animal consumption under the MAUCRSA regulatory framework. This will allow therapeutic products intended for pet

¹ **Osteoarthritis Study (Cornell)**
<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fvets.2018.00165/full>

Epilepsy Study (Colorado State University)
<https://cvmbs.source.colostate.edu/preliminary-data-from-cbd-clinical-trials-promising/>

Arthritis Study (Baylor)
<https://phys.org/news/2020-05-cbd-arthritis-symptoms-dogs.html#:~:text=A%20team%20led%20by%20researchers,studying%20its%20effect%20in%20humans.>

Skin Allergies (Commercial Research, Australia)
<https://www.businessnewsaustralia.com/articles/cannpal-breakthrough-as-treatment-alleviates-dermatitis-in-dogs.html>

² **(ASPCA)**
<https://www.aspca.org/animal-homelessness/shelter-intake-and-surrender/pet-statistics>

consumption to be sold with clear labeling and instructions for use, and ensure such products are tested to the rigorous safety standards required under California law.

It is in the best interest of families and their pets, as well hundreds of thousands of pets in California shelters, to ensure access to therapeutic cannabis for pets. For these reasons, we are pleased to support AB 384 and request your AYE vote when it is heard in committee.

Sincerely,



Lindsay Robinson,
Executive Director

cc: Assemblymember Ash Kalra, 27th District
Members, Assembly Business and Professions Committee
Danielle Sires, Senior Consultant, Assembly Business and Professions Committee
Bill Lewis, Assembly Republican Caucus