



LegalizeFerrets.org

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American Bar Association – Animal Law Committee
321 N Clark St.
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Subject: Legal Review Request – California’s Arbitrary Ferret Ban (Tracking Number 2025-03)

Dear Members of the Animal Law Committee,

I am reaching out regarding a significant legal issue concerning administrative overreach and regulatory inconsistency in California’s prohibition of domesticated ferrets. The California Fish and Game Commission (FGC) has officially accepted our petition for regulation change (Tracking Number 2025-03), meaning the Commission will review the petition at its April 16-17, 2025 meeting and decide at the June 11-12, 2025 meeting whether to deny it or grant it for further consideration.

This development presents an urgent opportunity to examine the legal irregularities surrounding the state’s continued ban on ferret ownership. As an advocate for regulatory transparency and fairness, I respectfully request the Animal Law Committee’s review of this matter from an administrative law and animal regulation perspective.

Regulatory Inconsistency and Lack of Due Process

Ferrets are legal in 48 states, widely recognized as domestic pets, and commonly kept across the U.S. without issue. However, in California, the Fish and Game Commission has classified ferrets as a restricted species without holding a hearing, presenting evidence, or following due process.

Under the California Administrative Procedure Act (APA), agencies must justify regulatory decisions and respond to petitions in a timely and legally consistent manner. Yet, the Fish and Game Commission has never provided scientific, environmental, or public health-based justification for maintaining this ban—despite multiple petitions and legal challenges.

Legal Precedents and Administrative Overreach

This situation raises concerns about:

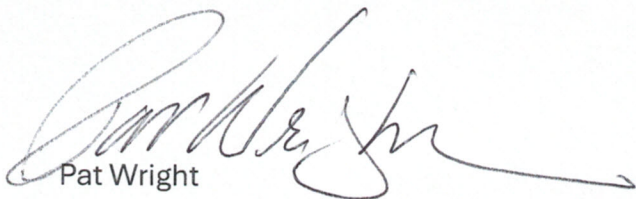
- Arbitrary and Capricious Rulemaking – The state upholds a restriction without evidence or hearings, violating core administrative law principles.
- Equal Protection Issues – California permits pet ownership of numerous non-native species yet bans a domestic animal without sound reasoning.
- Regulatory Integrity – If agencies can impose permanent prohibitions without review or justification, it sets a dangerous precedent for other pet-related regulations.

Request for Review and Consideration

With the Fish and Game Commission now formally reviewing the petition, I urge the Animal Law Committee to evaluate this issue within the framework of administrative and animal law. The lack of transparency and due process in California's ferret ban demonstrates a concerning misuse of regulatory authority. This issue has national implications for the fair application of animal regulations and the precedents set by administrative agencies over pet ownership.

I would appreciate the opportunity to provide further documentation and discuss this matter in greater detail. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pat Wright', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Pat Wright

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