



**American Rottweiler Club, Inc.
16005 Pine Creek Way
Magnolia, TX 77358**

July 14, 2009

Senator James B. Eldridge
Chair Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government
Room 2130A
State House
Boston, MA 02133

RE: MASSACHUSETTS HB 3589 - OPPOSED

Dear Senator Elbridge:

The American Rottweiler Club, Inc. (ARC), the parent club of the American Kennel Club (AKC) for the Rottweiler breed in the United States, representing thousands of dog owners, is writing regarding **Massachusetts HB 3589 – An Act To Provide For The Safe Care And Treatment Of Animals.**

We respectfully submit our official opposition to **Massachusetts HB 3589** which imposes onerous standards upon the hard-working professionals who care for our pets daily, severely restricting the procedures that can be performed by veterinary technicians and veterinary technologists without direct supervision of a veterinarian.

In addition – MA HB 3589 requires that all Veterinary Technicians and Veterinary Technologists to graduate from an American Veterinary Medical Association-approved program with either an Associate or Bachelor's degree, pass Veterinary Technician National Examination and be licensed annually.

Other issues with MA HB 3589 include:

- **The veterinarians in Massachusetts already rely on technicians who have been trained on the job, who monitor anesthesia, clean teeth, place catheters, etc - and now would be prohibited from doing those tasks.**
- **There are not enough Technicians and Technologists who have graduated from certification programs to fill the demand that exists in the state.**
- **Technicians and Technologists currently working with on the job training, independent study, continuing education and experience would not be accepted to take the VTNE licensing exam without going back to school for a degree from an American Veterinary Medical Association.**
- **This bill does not have wide support from either veterinary technicians or veterinarians.**

- **Licensing Technicians and Technologists complicates and adds unnecessary expense if they are required to carry additional liability insurance.**

MA HB 3589: In Summary

The American Rottweiler Club urges the members of the General Assembly of the State Of Massachusetts to act appropriately and responsibly by voting NO on Massachusetts HB 3589.

We thank you for your attention to this very important matter and remain committed to providing the State of Massachusetts with expert advice in matters of animal husbandry and the humane care and treatment of dogs. We would be honored to be called upon to serve.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Shaver", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jeff Shaver
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cc: American Rottweiler Club Board, Peter Piusz, Delegate