**URGENT DEADLINE: Letters of Support for CA Senate Bill SB898 (authored by Senator Janet Nguyen)**

Dear Colleague: We need your immediate help to craft a short letter in support of this bill. Please send your letter to Cameron Demetre ([cameron.demetre@sen.ca.gov](mailto:cameron.demetre@sen.ca.gov); 916-651-4034), staff person handling this bill for Senator Nguyen. **Letters must arrive before Monday morning, April 18.**

Background

Since 1965, the State of California (CA) Board of Equalization (BOE) ruled that sales and other taxes were not applicable to human blood products, as they provide a service to the community. At that time there were no parallel animal blood banks.

Animal blood banks began in CA in the early 1990s. In 1993, the CA BOE overruled an attempt to levy personal property tax on animal blood products. However, although animal blood banks like Hemopet have been operating under this ruling since then, there has been no specific legislation that classifies us as providing a service and equating animal blood banks with their human counterparts.

Current Urgent Problem

Because no official relevant legislation exists, Hemopet has continued in good faith for decades to operate as a service under the above authority. However, the CA Franchise Tax Board has assessed us a liability of $108,000 in back taxes/interest for failing to pay sales tax on canine blood products we provided to CA veterinary clinics for transfusion purposes in 2008-2011. My husband and I have been to Sacramento twice to appeal directly to the BOE Board Members. While they were supportive, they have no authority to rule on this matter without legislation. As a non-profit charity, Hemopet cannot pay this liability nor any further assessment of tax obligations going forward. Essentially, our operation would be forced to close, thereby denying veterinarians of 40% of the CA and national canine blood supply.

Senate Bill SB898 (copy attached) will solve this situation for any animal blood bank operating in CA. The California Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) Board supports and this Bill.

**Your Letter of Support for SB898**

Points to raise:

* Animal Blood Banks should be treated the same as Human Blood Banks, as they provide a service to society. This is why it is legally and socially correct that sales or other taxes should not be applied to this service.
* If this legislative relief is denied, Hemopet (a federal and CA registered tax-exempt charity) cannot pay the assessed prior and future sales tax liabilities, and will be forced to close.

Jean

W. Jean Dodds, DVM, President

[www.hemopet.org](http://www.hemopet.org)

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