

**Buchanan, Rita**

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**Subject:** FW: [AKC-legislative-liaisons] Stray puppies from India find shelter in Minn.

-----Original Message-----

From: Carol R. Hamilton [<mailto:katiedid.dandies@roadrunner.com>]

Sent: Saturday, July 12, 2014 11:35 AM

To: Bogaard, Bill; district1; Morales, Margo; West, Jana; Sullivan, Noreen; De La Cuba, Vannia; Madison, Steve; Tornek, Terry

Cc: Pasanita Obed Club; Council

Subject: FW: [AKC-legislative-liaisons] Stray puppies from India find shelter in Minn.

Let's see - we have SO many dogs here in the USA that the Animal Rights in cahoots with our politicians are mandating castration and hysterectomy or expensive fees - so there will be no more breeding - yet - this is going on all over the country. Wonder how many are brought in from Mexico and China - along with Russia - where they are exporting puppies here - and NOT pure breeds in most cases. Wonder why there are so many Chihuahuas in the shelters????????

"Pedigree indicates what the animal should be. Conformation indicates what the animal appears to be. But performance indicates what the animal actually is." Anonymous

Bulletin of the World Health Organization

India's ongoing war against rabies

<http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/87/12/09-021209/en/>

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/02/23/stray-puppies-from-india-find-shelter-in-minn/5730769/>

<http://tinyurl.com/l6snf3>

Stray puppies from India find shelter in Minn.

Frank Lee, St. Cloud (Minn.) Times 5:03 a.m. EST February 23, 2014

ST. CLOUD, Minn. -- Heather Bruhn-Worm had a hard time returning to Minnesota when her heart was in India with the stray puppies that adopted her.

The Minnesota woman brought six dogs back to the United States this month to give them a better life. She arranged to have three of them flown to the Tri-County Humane Society. The rest were delivered to a Minneapolis-St. Paul shelter.

"I volunteer for several animal rescue organizations, and so while I was there doing my IT job, there's just an overabundance of stray, street dogs in India," she said.

The information technologist for van Wageningen Financial Services has traveled to India twice for the Eden Prairie-based company.

She befriended a dog and her eight puppies living in a drainage culvert next to her office building during her first stay in India in September.

She had them flown to the United States, too, for about \$5,000.....

NAIA News

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WORKING TOGETHER TO FORM A UNITED FRONT TO END ANTI-CANINE LEGISLATION

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**Buchanan, Rita**

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**Subject:** FW: Letter Regarding Proposed Manatory Spay/Neuter Ordinance

**From:** Carol R. Hamilton [<mailto:katiedid.dandies@roadrunner.com>]

**Sent:** Saturday, July 12, 2014 8:21 AM

**To:** Bogaard, Bill; district1; Morales, Margo; West, Jana; Sullivan, Noreen; De La Cuba, Vannia; Madison, Steve; Tornek, Terry

**Cc:** Pasanita Obed Club; Council; Sara Barnes

**Subject:** Letter Regarding Proposed Manatory Spay/Neuter Ordinance

Dear City Council –

The proposed MSN law is not in the best interest of pets, kids, or people for several reasons. Here are some thoughts you should take into consideration – and I ask that this email be included in the letters against this proposed law.

1 – castration and hysterectomy remove the organs that provide necessary hormones for growth and proper development – both physical and mental. Early neutering can result in arrested development – so the animal will never fully mature. Emotional or mental arrested development will stunt the emotional growth, so the animal remains in the juvenile stage. Gee – don't you think that would push an owner to "give up" and surrender the animal to a shelter?

2 – several research studies have connected early castration and hysterectomy to an much higher risk of the animal developing osteosarcoma – a fatal cancer. That's on top of bladder problems that cause incontinence. Funny – ear cropping and tail docking are being outlawed because they're frivolous – yet your City Council is proposing a law that mandates major, intrusive surgery to remove major organs – but that's OK?

3 – you do realize that any surgery requiring anesthesia carries the risk of the patient dying. Is your City Council prepared to cover the expenses of someone losing an animal, covering the cost, telling a young child that their beloved pet is DEAD – because of your law?

4 – forcing people to pay high license fees for an intact animal will make many breeders give up breeding. I can tell you that most average (meaning – non-commercial) breeder is lucky to cover the expenses of a breeding. If there's a C-section, tests required for breeding, shipping of the stud or dam or the chilled or frozen semen, and any problems that require veterinary assistance during the pregnancy eat into that "so-called" profit real fast. That's not counting the expenses if the owners show, raising the pups till they're old enough to go to a new home, or taking the pup back if there is a problem.

5 – with these laws, the first types of animals that will decrease are pure bred. Doesn't seem like a problem, right? Well – think about this. With the influx of children having allergies – many are able to only have a selected breed. Personally, I am allergic to just about all cats and most dogs – with about 7 or 8 breeds that I can tolerate. Cutting down on the number of pure bred animals decreases the opportunity for kids to grow up with a pet – and learn about responsibility, training an animal, and unconditional love.

6 – having walked the shelters in southern California on many occasions – I can attest to the fact that there are very few pure bred in CA shelters. I happen to be quite good at identifying dog breeds, and believe me when I say that many of the breeds the shelters claim to have just "ARE NOT"!!!!!! I received a picture just recently of a dog from a local shelter that was supposed to be a Corgi – NOT!!! The dog did NOT have the right ears, coloring, dense bone, body shape, OR the crooked legs that are indicative of a Corgi, either one!

I am sure you have received many letters from others, but these are just a "few" reasons you should vote against such a limiting law. Remember your childhood and if you had the opportunity to share your love with a pet. Do NOT be responsible for taking that away from the next generations. Think about your own grandchildren!

Sincerely –  
Carol Hamilton

PS – Just one more thought. Have you considered the amount of revenue brought in by a single weekend, usually the first weekend of June, when the Kennel Club of Pasadena holds their annual Conformation, Obedience, Rally , and Agility shows? Vendors pay sales tax, exhibitors get hotel rooms, gas, meals, the club gets rooms for their judges – even the ice cream vendors come through the park and do a good business. Spectators are delighted to have a show in THEIR city. That’s just ONE weekend and ONE club. There are many other events, dog and cat related, that bring you revenue – that you will lose.

"Pedigree indicates what the animal should be. Conformation indicates what the animal appears to be. But performance indicates what the animal actually is." Anonymous

Anne Dove  
1147 North Wilson Avenue  
Pasadena, CA 91104

July 11, 2014

The Honorable Bill Bogaard, Mayor and Members of the City Council, City of Pasadena  
Pasadena City Hall  
100 North Garfield Avenue  
Pasadena, CA 91101

RE: City Council Agenda Item #18 (7/14/14) - Opposition to Mandatory Spay-Neuter Ordinance

Dear Mayor Bogaard:

The proposed Mandatory Spay Neuter (MSN) ordinance would be ineffective, expensive, and unfair to the residents of Pasadena and its many responsible cat and dog owners, and potentially harmful to dogs. MSN has not been found to be an effective tool and this type of ordinance is opposed by a broad range of animal welfare and professional veterinary and animal behavior organizations. More specifically, as written, the draft ordinance is flawed and based on erroneous assumptions, and for these reasons, ***I strongly urge that you not support moving this ordinance forward***, and instead, partner with the PHSSPCA to expand their low cost spay-neuter and public outreach/education programs, tools which have been found to be effective in promoting responsible pet ownership which is a root cause of the issues this proposed ordinance is attempting to remedy.

I have been a Pasadena resident for 17 years, and dog and cat owner for the latter 14 of those years. During this time, I have volunteered at a shelter, participated in breed rescue, and have owned a variety of cats and dogs, so I am acutely aware of the challenges of animals ending up in shelters. In addition, I also participate in breeding, training, showing and competing with dogs from both rescue situations and responsible breeders. As part of my interest in purebred dogs, I am also a member of an American Kennel Club (AKC)-affiliated national breed club, for which I am a member of the ethics education committee, and I am an active board member of an AKC-affiliated regional dog breed club. With this breadth of experience and understanding, I respectfully request that you consider the information I am providing, and oppose the proposed ordinance.

The following is an overview of why this mandatory spay-neuter ordinance should not move forward:

1. Mandatory spay neuter laws have not been found to effectively reduce the number of dogs in shelters nor reduce incidents of dog aggression. Education and incentives are more effective than regulation and enforcement.
2. The proposed ordinance will disproportionately impact community members with limited income/financial means and increase abandonment and relinquishment of cats and dogs to Pasadena Humane Society.
3. A mandatory spay neuter program would be expensive and difficult to enforce, as described in a 2008 memo to the Public Safety Committee from the City's Director of the Public Health Department.
4. Many professional veterinary and animal welfare organizations oppose mandatory spay neuter regulations.

5. The assumption that spaying and neutering yields net positive health benefits, especially in juvenile cats and dogs, is erroneous and a gross generalization.
6. Decisions about a pet's reproductive status and medical/ surgical procedures should be made by informed pet owners in consultation with their veterinarians. Spaying and neutering should be a choice and not a mandate.
7. The ordinance does not provide any exceptions for breeders and exhibitors of cats, as it does for breeders and exhibitors of dogs.
8. The criteria for "exemptions" do not adequately address the realities of show and competition dogs.
9. The criteria for revocation of an "unaltered dog license" are extreme and expose responsible dog owners to unreasonable threat of involuntary spaying or neutering of their pets.
10. This ordinance would deter cat and dog clubs from hosting shows and events in Pasadena, and deter exhibitors from participating, thus denying the economic and educational benefits of these events to the City of Pasadena and its residents.

Each of these points is further explored below:

**1. Mandatory spay neuter laws have not been found to effectively reduce the number of dogs in shelters nor reduce incidents of dog aggression. Education and incentives are more effective than regulation and enforcement.**

The draft ordinance "Fact Sheet" includes several statements that are erroneous or not supported definitively by peer-reviewed scientific literature:

*"...spaying and neutering has been shown to reduce aggression in dogs and has the added benefits of promoting animal welfare and lessening pet overpopulation,"*

*"Both agencies [City of Pasadena and Pasadena Humane Society] have identified the need for the City of Pasadena to enact mandatory spay and neuter for all dogs and cats to promote animal welfare, public health and safety, and quality life within Pasadena."*

*"Mandatory sterilization would reduce the number of unwanted pets that become strays or owner turn-ins and decrease the roaming tendency of cats and dogs."*

*"The degree of fecundity can only be lowered by enforcement of a spay/neuter requirement for irresponsible pet owners."*

***Pet Overpopulation in Pasadena?***

The premise that there is a dog overpopulation crisis in Pasadena is not supported by The Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA's (PHSSPCA) self-reported data. Of the 2,253 live dogs impounded, only 13 were euthanized due to lack of shelter space with 14 young puppies euthanized because PHSSPCA was not able to provide maternal care. While still unfortunate, these statistics do not indicate a crisis of such magnitude that a broad brush spay-neuter mandate on all cat and dog owners in Pasadena is warranted.

***MSN is Not Shown to Reduce Incidents of Aggression***

There are many reasons that dogs exhibit behavioral problems such as aggression. There is ongoing research to explore the potential for links between behavioral issues and spay/neutering. In a UC Davis

study (James O’Heare 2006) cited by the Association of Animal Behavior Specialists, the researchers concluded that:

- Neutering cannot be expected to reduce aggressive behavior in all dogs and will not always completely eliminate aggressive behaviors
- If an intact dog demonstrates aggressive behavior, neutering should be considered as an adjunct to other behavior modification practices
- Early spaying and neutering is likely not helpful at preventing aggression and may pose certain medical risks.

The study also cites the importance of behavior modification in conjunction with any sterilization approaches, but the proposed ordinance only considers the latter. Requiring behavioral assessment and participation in a behavior modification program for nuisance dogs would be an effective alternative approach to MSN. Owners could be required to pay the fees for these behavior/training services to make this a cost effective tool (similar to people paying for “traffic school” when they receive a traffic violation).

### ***Effectiveness of MSN is Unproven***

On a more general level, it may seem an obvious conclusion that requiring spaying and neutering would reduce the number of dogs in shelters. However, there are a number of reasons that animals end up in shelters and only a small fraction of reasons relate to dogs’ reproductive status or how those dogs came into this world. The National Council on Pet Overpopulation Studies, a research group whose members include the American Veterinary Medical Association, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty for Animals, and several other organizations, published the top 10 reasons why dogs are surrendered to shelters:

- Moving
- Landlord issues
- Cost of pet maintenance
- No time for pet
- Inadequate facilities
- Too many pets in home
- Pet illness(es)
- Personal problems
- Biting
- No homes for littermates

Only one or, arguably, two of those reasons have anything to do with how many dogs are being born. Most relate to economic issues and/or the lack of responsible pet ownership.

In analyzing the effectiveness of mandatory spay neuter laws, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) reviewed existing research and concluded that, “*the main reason for this decline [in per capita shelter intake and euthanasia] is the increasing incidence of spayed and neutered animals in the pet population.*” However, they also note that:

*“...to the knowledge of the ASPCA, the only method of population control that has demonstrated long-term efficacy in significantly reducing the number of animals entering animal shelters is the voluntary sterilization of owned pets.”*

*“...the ASPCA is not aware of any credible evidence demonstrating a statistically significant enhancement in the reduction of shelter intake or euthanasia as a result of the implementation of a mandatory spay/neuter law.”*

There are several examples of where mandatory spay neuter laws failed. The first mandatory spay neuter law, enacted in 1991 for San Mateo County, California, resulted in a 126% increase in dog euthanasia and an 86% increase in cat euthanasia. The Peninsula Humane Society (PHS), which helped develop the ordinance, deemed the results "disappointing" since it led to increases in shelter killing. Within the first six months of implementation of Los Angeles County's mandatory spay neuter ordinance, there was a 28% increase in euthanasia, and a 20% increase in impounds in the six months. These are just a few of many examples where MSN did not yield the desired outcomes.

### ***Cats and Dogs "Roam" because they are Not Confined***

The reason cats and dogs roam is because their owners/custodians fail to effectively confine them. While an intact animal may have a higher drive at times to roam, it is the responsibility of the owner to confine their animals per the municipal code. Many owners of intact animals successfully comply with these requirements while many altered animals roam at large. This is an issue associated with responsible pet ownership at the root, not an animal's reproductive status.

### ***Unintended Consequences***

There are unintended consequences of enacting mandatory spay neuter regulations. Examples from other communities illustrate that such regulations result in a decrease in dog licensing, a decrease in rabies vaccination, and avoidance of veterinary care as people attempt to conceal their lack of compliance with mandatory spay- neuter laws.

### ***Education and Informed Choice***

Creating a punitive atmosphere around the issue of responsible pet ownership will drive people away from the resources available through PHSSPCA. To avoid "detection" of having an intact pet, many will avoid the programs and services offered by PHSSPCA that promote responsible pet ownership. The notion that the sole tool for preventing unwanted pet pregnancies is mandating spay-neuter is short sighted and completely ignores the role of education and cooperation. Pet owners should be educated about the trade-offs involved with spaying or neutering their pet and have the right to make an informed choice about their pet's reproductive status.

## **2. The proposed ordinance will disproportionately impact community members with limited income/financial means and increase abandonment and relinquishment of cats and dogs to Pasadena Humane Society.**

These types of regulations have been shown to result in many economically disadvantaged pet owners surrendering their pets due to the lack of financial resources for spay-neuter procedures. The ordinance "Fact Sheet" cites the Humane Society of the United States' (HSUS) research that shows, "...the primary reason owners do not alter their pets is cost." Mandating spaying and neutering of pets will not remedy this obstacle and exacerbate the problem, as people who cannot afford to alter their pets avoid licensing and vet care or give up their pets altogether.

An expansion of low cost spay-neuter services by PHSSPCA would be more effective and prevent more animals from being abandoned or placed in the shelter. With the PHSSPCA's newly expanded facilities, they are able to accommodate an additional 120 to 150 (or 10% more) spay-neuter procedures per week which will help lower income pet owners keep their pets without imposing costly and difficult to enforce regulations on the broader community. Interfacing with pet owners through the voluntary spay-neuter program also affords opportunities to engage pet owners around other aspects of responsible pet ownership in a proactive, cooperative environment that would not otherwise be fostered under a mandatory spay-neuter regulatory climate.



At the October 7, 2013 City Council meeting, representatives from a Pasadena-based veterinary clinic also offered to work with the City to find ways for their and other Pasadena vet practices to help with low cost spay-neuter services, which would further help lower income pet owners without imposing community-wide mandates. With the large number of veterinary practices in Pasadena, there is an untapped community of resources that could potentially expand voluntary low cost spay-neuter opportunities in the city.

**3. A mandatory spay neuter program would be an expensive and difficult to enforce, as described in a 2008 memo to the Public Safety Committee from the City's Director of the Public Health Department.**

The "Fact Sheet" for the draft ordinance currently being considered states that there would be "no fiscal impact". A July 15, 2008 memorandum to the Public Safety Committee on the subject of "Dog spay and neutering" from Takashi Wada, MD MPH, then-Director/Health Officer for the City's Public Health Department indicates otherwise (*Attachment A: July 15, 2008 Memorandum to Public Safety Committee*). The purpose of the memo was to answer the question as to whether it was feasible and desirable to expand a proposed 2008 ordinance requiring spay neuter for pit bull/pit bull mixes to all dogs in Pasadena. In the memo, Dr. Wada stated the following:

*"...the Pasadena Humane Society would require a significant increase in their animal control contract in order to accommodate the increased staffing and operational costs associated with enforcing the ordinance. While there are a minimal number of legitimate breeders of pit bulls, there are a large number of show dogs of other breeds that would be submitted for exemptions. The process of verifying pedigree information, show dog registration, and inspecting breeding quarters is time intensive... Extending the proposed mandatory spay neuter ordinance to all dog breeds is feasible, but would require an additional significant cost to the city."*

According to research conducted by the American Kennel Club, a 2008 mandatory spay/neuter law enacted in Dallas, Texas resulted in a 22 percent increase in animal control expenditures, as well as an overall decrease in licensing projected to reduce revenue by \$400,000. The City of Santa Cruz, California, experienced a 56% cost increase over the first 12 years of implementation. The City of Los Angeles' budget ballooned from \$6.7 million to \$18 million following implementation. Other communities have experienced similar net increases in their expenses as a result of mandatory spay-neuter laws.

**4. Many professional veterinary and animal welfare organizations oppose mandatory spay neuter regulations.**

While most professional veterinary and animal welfare organizations promote voluntary spaying and neutering of cats and dogs not intended for breeding, many also oppose mandatory spay neuter regulations, recognizing that they are not effective, efficient, and/or appropriate. Some of these organizations include:

*Professional Veterinary and Animal Behavior Organizations:*

- American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)
- American College of Theriogenologists (ACT) (the certifying college for veterinarians board certified in reproduction as a specialty)
- Society for Theriogenology (SFT) (an organization of veterinarians with a special interest in reproduction in veterinary medicine)

*Animal Welfare Organizations:*

- American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)(one of the oldest and most credible animal welfare organizations in the US)
- National Animal Interest Alliance (a national animal welfare organization)
- Alley Cat Allies (cat welfare organization)
- No Kill Advocacy Center (animal welfare organization focused on a goal of no kill in shelters)

**5. The assumption that spaying and neutering yields net positive health benefits, especially in juvenile cats and dogs, is erroneous and a gross generalization.**

A breadth of scientific, peer-reviewed literature shows that there are some health benefits to dog sterilization, but there are also health benefits to leaving dogs reproductive systems intact (*Attachment B: Position on Mandatory Spay-Neuter in the Canine and Feline, American College of Theriogenologists and the Society for Theriogenology*). Orthopedic issues and some types of cancer have been linked to early spay-neuter and research about health-related impacts from spay-neuter is a growing area of research. There are trade-offs with either scenario, and these trade-offs become more complicated when factoring the age at which dogs are spayed or neutered.

Hormonal development affects more than the reproductive system, and at six months, dogs are young for spaying and neutering in the context of development. Some have estimated that a six-month old puppy is the developmental equivalent of 10-year old child. Few would promote removal of the reproductive system of a 10-year old child without concerns about how this would affect their physical, psychological and behavioral development.

**6. Decisions about a pet's reproductive status and surgical procedures should be made by informed pet owners in consultation with their veterinarians.**

It is not an appropriate role for the City of Pasadena to mandate potentially expensive, and in some limited cases, risky, surgical procedures. This ordinance would intrude into the doctor-client-patient relationship. While there are provisions for cats and dogs to be exempt from this ordinance should a veterinarian deem it too risky for a particular animal, gonadectomy (the technical term for spaying or neutering) is still a surgical procedure under general anesthesia that involves significantly altering a major biological system of an animal. Who is liable if someone reluctantly has their animal spayed or neutered due to this ordinance and something unavoidable goes wrong resulting in harm or loss to the animal?

**7. The ordinance does not provide any exceptions for breeders and exhibitors of cats, as it does for breeders and exhibitors of dogs.**

There are people who breed and exhibit cats under the auspices of the Cat Fanciers Association (CFA), a national organization, and its regional clubs, which is the analog of the American Kennel Club (AKC). While I do not participate in or have connections to this community, this ordinance would affect these responsible pet owners and breeders. These organizations have hosted cat shows in Pasadena in the past, so they are an important stakeholder.

**8. The criteria for "exemptions" does not adequately address the realities of show and competition dogs.**

Based on the specifics of the criteria for obtaining an "exemption" from the ordinance, it is clear that its authors do not understand the nature of dog breeding, showing and competition, nor did they consult with stakeholders involved in these activities. Dogs are not eligible to compete is several dog competition venues

until they are well over six months old. For example, in the sport of agility, dogs must be at least 15 months old to compete. For lure coursing, dogs must be at least 12 months old. Additionally, owners will often “hold out” their dogs from competition to focus on training, growth of a show quality coat, or to allow a dog to mature. It is not unusual for a dog to not compete for more than a year, making the 365-day requirement unrealistic and unfair. So to be exempt, a “competition” dog is required to compete within the last 365 days or be spayed-neutered by the age of six months. For many dogs, this exemption would be impossible given the time gap between six months, and the first time they are eligible to compete in some venues.

**9. The criteria for revocation of an “unaltered dog license” are extreme and expose responsible dog owners to unreasonable threat of involuntary spaying or neutering of their pets.**

The revocation of an “unaltered dog license” is linked to the enforcement of Chapters 6.12 and 6.16 of the Municipal Code. These regulations address issues associated with dogs running at large, dogs defecating on public property, and dog licensing.

The “one strike” policy that an unaltered cat or dog be spayed or neutered as a condition of release from the shelter is unfair. What happens if a responsible pet owner has an “exempt”, unaltered animal that for some reason—as accidents happen—gets loose and ends up at the PHSSPCA? To reclaim their pet, that owner must alter that pet. Almost every pet owner has experienced their cat or dog accidentally slipping out of the front door or yard due to the carelessness of a utility meter reader, gardener, house guest, pet sitter or child. Typically, the animal is quickly back under control and never ends up at the PHSSPCA, but sometimes they do. The policy that the owner may only reunite with their cat or dog if they are sterilized, even if they have previously received an exception, is unfair.

And the notion that not cleaning up dog feces within five minutes can result in being required to spay-neuter your dog is almost absurd. It can take more than five minutes to return home for a bag (if one is forgotten) and the potential penalty of being required to spay or neuter your dog as a result just makes no sense. There is no link between a dog owner failing to clean-up after their dog and the dog’s reproductive status!

**10. This ordinance would deter cat and dog clubs from hosting shows and events in Pasadena, and deter exhibitors from participating, denying the economic and educational benefits of these events.**

Cat and dog shows provide economic benefits to communities. As someone who shows dogs, I can attest to the expenses involved in traveling to and participating in these events. The AKC has determined that the average exhibitor at an AKC dog show spends \$512 per show weekend. In addition to the money spent by exhibitors, revenue associated with hosting a show such as facility rental and fees, equipment rental, security, EMTs, catering, flowers, and trophies provide additional local economic benefit.

Having participated at least once in every Los Angeles area dog show event, I have observed that the Kennel Club of Pasadena’s shows draw more spectators than most other area shows. Dog shows provide opportunities to educate the public about purebred dogs, promote responsible dog ownership, and expose the public to the broad range of dog sport activities in which anyone can participate, whether they have purebred dogs or not. Because of the draft ordinance’s provisions for requiring sterilization as a condition of releasing an intact dog to their owners from PHSSPCA, many exhibitors of purebred dogs from outside of Pasadena would be deterred from participating in Pasadena’s annual dog show, as well as the obedience competitions hosted by Pasanita Obedience Club.

**Conclusion**

The draft ordinance should not move forward towards adoption. The proposed mandatory spay neuter ordinance would be ineffective, expensive, and unfair. Bolstering PHSSPCA's existing voluntary low cost spay-neuter programs, as well as their education and outreach efforts would be more effective and appropriate.

Sincerely,



Anne Dove

Enclosures:

Attachment A: July 15, 2008 Memorandum to Public Safety Committee

Attachment B: Position on Mandatory Spay-Neuter in the Canine and Feline,  
American College of Theriogenologists and the Society for Theriogenology

**Pasadena Public Health Department  
Administration****Memorandum**

**To:** Public Safety Committee  
**From:** Takashi Wada, MD MPH, Director/ Health Officer  
**CC:** Stephanie DeWolfe, Assistant City Manager  
**Date:** July 15, 2008  
**Re:** Dog spay and neutering

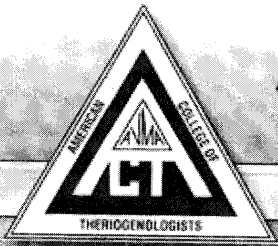
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On March 10, 2008, the Pasadena City Council directed the City Attorney's Office to draft an ordinance requiring the spaying and neutering of pit bulls and pit bull mixes in the City of Pasadena. The prepared ordinance was scheduled to be heard for first reading on May 5, 2008; however, the item was held and staff was directed to follow up with additional information to be presented at a future Public Safety Committee meeting.

The primary question to staff was whether it was feasible and desirable to extend the mandatory spay and neuter requirement to all dogs in Pasadena, rather than focus on specific breeds. The challenge with breed specific regulation is in defining and identifying breeds, especially those of mixed pedigrees. In the draft ordinance prepared by the City Attorney's Office, the responsibility for determining the breed of a particular dog is left to the City Poundmaster. In Pasadena, this entity is the Pasadena Humane Society. While identifying breeds can be difficult, there are several reasons why the initial agenda report focused on pit bulls and pit bull mixes.

First, pit bulls and pit bull mixes disproportionately occupy space in the Humane Society impound and records indicate that they are seldom adopted by the public. While no specific breed of dog can be labeled as inherently more dangerous, several of the more well publicized incidents, including attacks in Pasadena and San Francisco, involved pit bull breeds. San Francisco implemented a pit bull specific spay and neuter program with success. Second, Pasadena does not have the capacity to spay and neuter the increased volume of animals should the ordinance be immediately extended to all dog breeds. This would result in the pit bull owners having to compete with all dog owners for scarce appointments, thus delaying the intended focus on pit bull overpopulation. Lastly, the Pasadena Humane Society would require a significant increase in their animal control contract in order to accommodate the increased staffing and operational costs associated with enforcing the ordinance. While there are a minimal number of legitimate breeders of pit bulls, there are a large number of show dogs of other breeds that would be submitted for exemptions. The process of verifying pedigree information, show dog registration, and inspecting breeding quarters is time intensive. The attached document from the Pasadena Humane Society details the costs involved in enforcing a new spay and neuter requirement in Pasadena.

Extending the proposed mandatory spay and neuter ordinance to all dog breeds is feasible, but would require an additional significant cost to the city.



# American College of Theriogenologists

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## Basis for Position on Mandatory Spay-Neuter in the Canine and Feline

### Members of the Spay Neuter Task Force

The American College of Theriogenologists (ACT) is the certifying college for veterinarians board certified in reproduction (specialists) and the Society for Theriogenology (SFT) is an organization of veterinarians with a special interest in reproduction in veterinary medicine. **The ACT and SFT believe that companion animals not intended for breeding should be spayed or neutered; however, both organizations believe that the decision to spay or neuter a pet must be made on a case by case basis, taking into consideration the pet's age, breed, sex, intended use, household environment and temperament. The use of generalized rules concerning gonadectomy (removal of the ovaries or testes) is not in the best interest of the health or well-being of the pets or their owners.** Each of the following considerations must be assessed for each individual animal and household.

#### 1) Health concerns

- a. Research has shown that there can be positive effects of the sex steroid hormones. The sex steroids are hormones produced by the ovaries and testes, and are only present in intact males and females. Gonadectomy at any age deprives the body of the positive health effects of these hormones. Although in most cases, the benefits of spay-neuter outweigh the benefits of exposure to the sex steroids, this is not true in all cases. Since gonadectomy prior to puberty or sexual maturity may make the risks of some diseases higher in certain breeds or individuals, the option to leave an animal intact must be available to the pet owner.

##### i. Advantages of remaining intact:

1. There is a decreased incidence of hemangiosarcoma in intact bitches and dogs.
2. There is a decreased incidence of osteosarcoma in intact male and female dogs.
3. There is a decreased risk of transitional cell carcinoma in intact dogs and bitches.
4. There is a decreased risk of prostatic adenocarcinoma in intact male dogs compared to gonadectomized male dogs.
5. There is a decreased incidence of obesity in intact male and female dogs and cats, which may be due at least partly to increased metabolic rate.
6. There is a decreased incidence of urinary incontinence in intact bitches (equivocal if bitches are spayed after 5 months but before their first heat).
7. There may be a reduced incidence of urinary tract infection in intact

- obesity.
8. There may be a reduced incidence of feline lower urinary tract disease (FLUTD) in intact male and female cats which may be partly due to decreased obesity in these animals.
  9. There may be a reduced incidence of autoimmune thyroiditis and hypothyroidism in intact male and female dogs.
  10. There is a decreased incidence of diabetes mellitus in intact female cats and a possibly reduced incidence in diabetes mellitus in intact male dogs.
  11. There is a reduced incidence of cranial cruciate rupture in intact male and female dogs.
  12. There may be a reduced incidence of hip dysplasia in male and female dogs that are not gonadectomized before 5 months of age.
  13. There may be an increased incidence of capital physal fractures in castrated male cats that may be partially due to increased weight gain in gonadectomized males.
- b. Research has shown that there are a number of detrimental effects of the sex steroid hormones. Spaying and neutering will remove these hormones and thus lower the risk of these conditions.
- i. Advantages of being spayed or castrated:
    1. There is an increased risk of mammary, testicular, and ovarian neoplasia in intact male and female dogs and cats.
      - a. There is an increased risk of mammary cancer with each subsequent cycle and the benefit of spaying does not disappear until the animal reaches old age.
        - i. Mammary cancer is one of the most common types of neoplasia in small animals.
          1. Mammary neoplasia is malignant 60% of the time in dogs and 90% of the time in cats.
      - b. The incidence and mortality risk for ovarian cancer are very low
      - c. The incidence for testicular cancer is more common but malignancy and mortality are very low.
    2. There is an increased risk of pyometra in both intact female dogs and cats and this risk increases with increasing age.
    3. There is an increased risk of prostatitis, benign prostatic hyperplasia, prostatic cysts and squamous metaplasia of the prostate in intact male dogs.
    4. There is a decreased incidence of perineal and inguinal hernia and perineal adenoma in neutered male dogs.
- c. **Based on the research available, it is clear there are a number of health benefits of the sex steroid hormones and that this benefit varies with age, sex, and breed. Therefore, although spay-neuter is the responsible choice for most pets, it is in the best interest of each individual patient for its veterinarian to assess the risks and benefits of gonadectomy and to advise his/her clients on what is appropriate for each individual pet at each stage of its life.**

## 2) Behavioral concerns

- a. Research has shown that there are positive effects of the sex steroid hormones on behavior.
  - i. Advantages of remaining intact:
    1. There is a decrease in shyness and hiding behavior in intact male and female cats.
    2. There may be less aggression towards people and animals in intact bitches.
    3. There may be a decreased incidence of cognitive dysfunction in intact male and female dogs.
- b. Research has shown that there are negative effects of the sex steroid hormones on behavior





pet overpopulation problems, since most animals that are abandoned are relinquished because of behavior, health, economic and life changing conditions and not due to their reproductive status. In fact, in some European Union countries where gonadectomy is illegal unless deemed medically necessary (such as Norway) there are no significant problems with pet overpopulation, indicating that the pet overpopulation problem that exists in the United States is due to cultural differences on the importance of pets, the responsibility of pet owners, and the ability of the government and national agencies to properly educate the public. Although both organizations believe that most companion animals should be spayed or neutered, the ACT and SFT also strongly believe that it is not in the best interest of the animals to produce legislation regarding medical treatments. Therefore, both organizations oppose **mandatory** spay/neuter programs.

There are hundreds of references which provide scientific information on the effects of spay and neuter in both dogs and cats. We chose to provide the reader with a selected list of them. This reference list was compiled by Dr. Peggy Root-Kustritz, DACT.

## References

American College of Theriogenologists  
P.O. Box 3065  
Montgomery, AL 36109  
334-395-4666  
334-270-3399 (FAX)

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American Pomeranian Club  
City of Angels Pomeranian Club  
c/o Geneva Coats, Legislative Liaison  
13674 Geranium St.  
Chino CA 91710-5080

Pasadena City Council  
100 North Garfield Ave.  
Room S249  
Pasadena, CA 91101

July 11, 2014

Request to be included in the official record for City Council meeting of July 14, 2014.

Dear Mayor Bogaard, Vice Mayor Robinson, and City Council Members,

The City of Angels Pomeranian Club and the American Pomeranian Club urge you to reject the ill-conceived spay-neuter proposal on the agenda for July 14, 2014. We read through the Agenda Report from the Director of Public Works. This report is full of fabrications and outright lies.

The report claims that a law is needed to force people to alter their pets, yet on page three of this very same report, there is a graph that demonstrates that **87% of the owned, licensed dogs in the city of Pasadena are ALREADY ALTERED**. And, it would seem obvious to a kindergartener that feral cats do not have owners, don't read city ordinances, and won't turn themselves in for sterilization surgery. Citizens who care for feral cats do not consider themselves owners of such cats and in most cases will not make the effort to sterilize them.

OK, fair enough, you want to force that other 13% to spay and neuter their pets. The reasons why seem to include:

- *reducing "overpopulation"*

There is absolutely NO evidence that "overpopulation" of pets is a significant factor in the City of Pasadena. The latest report just released from 2012 claims on page 15 that "Our adoption placement rate is 98% for cats (excluding feral cats) and 96.2% for dogs". It seems there is a **SHORTAGE** of adoptable pets in the City of Pasadena.

- *reducing the numbers of stray and roaming dogs*

The best tools for reducing stray and roaming dogs are known as "doors" "fences" and "leashes". The evidence is poor at best that any other factor other than enforcement of existing leash laws affects the numbers of stray and roaming dogs. Intact and neutered dogs will both roam when they are not physically prevented from doing so. Dogs that are allowed to roam have bigger problems than an unplanned litter...such as being hit by a car, poisoned or killed by coyotes. Enforcement of confinement laws is the answer.

- *reducing numbers of dog bites*

Dog bites are the result of owners who fail to properly restrain or socialize their dogs. The studies do not support the assertion that neutered dogs are less likely to bite. In fact, there are several studies that demonstrate that neutering may decrease dog to dog aggression but that neutering will actually INCREASE dog to human aggression. This also holds true for spayed females. Spaying increases aggression in female dogs. See attached veterinarian-authored paper with references.

- *"Veterinary science has demonstrated the safety and positive health benefits of spaying and neutering which is especially true if the animal is sterilized before maturity."*

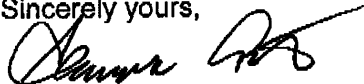
**FALSE** and the **OPPOSITE** of what modern science has demonstrated. Altering increases the risk for a host of health problems and the risk is higher the younger the age that the pet is altered! The short list of **health problems that are increased when the animal is altered** includes: hip dysplasia, patellar luxation, bone cancer, hemangiosarcoma, prostate cancer, bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, reduced lifespan, lymphoma, noise phobias and aggression, incontinence in females, pancreatitis and adverse reaction to vaccination. See attached veterinarian-authored paper with references for further information.

- *"One un-spayed female cat and her offspring can be responsible for the birth of 73,000 kittens in six years' time"*

This is utter baloney. If this were true we would have literally TRILLIONS of cats in the USA today. A study of feral cats (who are the ones most likely to reproduce) found that in 12 years, one stray unspayed female with all her unspayed female offspring can be expected to produce 3200 kittens if there is no human intervention. This does not, however, factor in the high mortality rate of the kittens and trap/neuter/release programs. It also assumes that all offspring survive, when in reality, their average lifespan is just two to three years. If you don't live, you can't reproduce. Jerry Folland, a mathematician with MIT, was quoted in an article saying he calculates that the actual number may be much lower, with less than 100 cats surviving after seven years.

We urge you to reject reports founded on untruths and exaggerations. Mandatory spay and neuter laws result in increased costs, increased animal intakes and deaths, increased risk of rabies exposures and a distrust of local government by the citizens. Such punitive laws are not only unnecessary, they are bad for pets and bad for the community.

Sincerely yours,



Geneva Coats  
Legislative Liaison  
American Pomeranian Club  
City of Angels Pomeranian Club

[http://www.caninesports.com/uploads/1/5/3/1/15319800/spay\\_neuter\\_considerations\\_2013.pdf](http://www.caninesports.com/uploads/1/5/3/1/15319800/spay_neuter_considerations_2013.pdf)

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## Early Spay-Neuter Considerations for the Canine Athlete: One Veterinarian's Opinion

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Extensively revised and updated - 2013

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Those of us with responsibility for the health of canine athletes need to continually read and evaluate new scientific studies to ensure that we are taking the most appropriate care of our performance dogs. This article reviews scientific evidence that, taken together, suggests that veterinarians and owners working with canine athletes should revisit the current standard protocol in which all dogs that are not intended for breeding are spayed and neutered at or before 6 months of age. The results of a number of publications are briefly summarized in the areas of orthopedics, cancer, behavior, and other health considerations.

### Orthopedic Considerations

- *Bitches spayed at 7 weeks had significantly delayed closure of growth plates as compared to those spayed at 7 months, and those spayed at 7 months had significantly delayed closure of growth plates as compared to those left intact.*(1) *In a study of 1444 Golden Retrievers, bitches and dogs spayed or neutered at less than a year of age were significantly taller than those spayed or neutered after a year of age.*(2)
- *In a study of 203 agility dogs, the author demonstrated that the tibia and radius and ulna were significantly longer than the femur and humerus, respectively, in dogs that were spayed or neutered at or prior to 8 months of age as compared to intact dogs.*(M.C. Zink, unpublished data)
- *Several studies have shown that spayed and neutered dogs have a significantly higher prevalence of CCL rupture (3–6), even when controlling for body size.*(3)
- *Dogs that were neutered at least 6 months prior to a diagnosis of hip dysplasia were 1.5 times more likely to develop hip dysplasia than sexually intact dogs.*(7)
- *Spayed/neutered dogs had 3.1 times higher incidence of patellar luxation.*(8)

**Discussion:** Dogs that have been spayed or neutered at or before puberty can often be identified by their longer limbs, lighter bone structure, narrower chests and narrower skulls than intact dogs of the same breed. This differential growth frequently results in significant alterations in body proportions and particularly the lengths (and therefore weights) of certain bones relative to others. For example, if the femur has achieved its genetically determined normal length at 8 months, prior to a dog being spayed or neutered, but the tibia (which normally stops growing at 12 to 14 months of age) continues to elongate for several months after that point because of the removal of the sex hormones, then the relationship between the femur and tibia will be different than what was genetically determined. This may result in an abnormal angle at the stifle and a longer (and therefore heavier) tibia placing increased stress on the cranial cruciate ligament (of the knee or stifle joint). It is well known that spayed and neutered dogs are more likely to be overweight or obese than sexually intact dogs (9), and this can be a contributing factor to orthopedic diseases. Thus, keeping the spayed/neutered canine athlete lean can help mitigate the increased risk of orthopedic conditions.

### Cancer Considerations

- *Spayed females had more than 5 times greater risk than intact bitches of developing cardiac hemangiosarcoma and neutered males had 1.6 times higher risk than intact males had of developing cardiac hemangiosarcoma.*(10)
- *Spayed females had 2.2 times increased risk for developing splenic hemangiosarcoma.*(11)
- *Male and female Rottweilers that were neutered or spayed before a year of age had 3.8 and 3.1 times greater risk, respectively, of developing bone cancer than intact dogs.*(12) *In a second study, spayed/neutered dogs had a 2.2 times higher risk of developing bone cancer than intact dogs.*(13)
- *Neutered dogs had a 2.8 times greater risk for developing any prostate tumor than intact dogs.*(14) *Neutered dogs had a 4.3 times higher risk of developing prostate carcinoma.*(15, 16)
- *Neutered dogs had a 3.6 higher risk for developing transitional cell carcinoma of the bladder than intact dogs, and a 3 times greater risk of developing any bladder tumor.*(14) *Spayed/neutered dogs had more than 4 times greater risk for developing transitional cell carcinoma of the bladder than intact dogs.*(17)

- *In a survey of 2505 Vizslas, spayed or neutered dogs were found to have a significantly higher risk of mast cell cancer, hemangiosarcoma, lymphoma and all cancers together than intact dogs.(18)*

**Discussion:** One study indicated a slightly increased risk of mammary cancer in female dogs after one heat cycle (8% increase), greater risk with two heats (26% increase) and increased risk with each subsequent heat.(19) However, a recent systematic review of the publications that advocate neutering to reduce the risk of mammary tumors in dogs indicated that 9 of 13 reports had a high risk of bias and the remaining 4 had a moderate risk of bias. This study concluded that the evidence that neutering reduces the risk of mammary cancer is weak and do not constitute a sound basis for firm recommendations.(20) Additionally, at the time when several of these studies were conducted (late 1960s), it was found that incidence rates for all malignant neoplasms were 453.4/100,000 female dogs. Mammary tumors accounted for half of these tumors, or 198.8/100,000. Thus, the actual overall risk at that time of any bitch getting a mammary tumor was only 0.2%.(21) In any case, the figures for increased risk of mammary cancer must be compared with the 200 to 400% increased risk of other cancers in spayed females. While about 30% of mammary cancers are malignant (22), as in humans, when caught and surgically removed early, the prognosis is very good.(23) This is in comparison to the other cancers listed, such as hemangiosarcoma and bladder cancer, which are often fatal. Given the balance of cancer risks listed above, owners of canine athletes should strongly consider leaving the ovaries intact for at least two heat cycles. In addition, the veterinary field should be developing programs for regular examinations including imaging to facilitate early diagnosis of mammary cancer in all intact female dogs, as has been performed in women for decades.

#### **Behavior Considerations**

- *Early age gonadectomy was associated with an increased incidence of noise phobias and undesirable sexual behaviors, such as mounting.(24)*
- *Significantly more behavioral problems in spayed and neutered bitches and dogs, with fearful behavior being most common in spayed bitches and aggression in neutered dogs.(25, 26)*
- *In a prospective study, German Shepherd Dogs spayed between 5-10 months of age had significantly increased reactivity.(27)*

**Discussion:** A number of the early studies claiming to show positive behavioral effects of spay/neuter were significantly flawed. For example, one of the most often quoted publications to support improvements in behavior, particularly aggression, after gonadectomy does not actually provide any statistical analysis. Additionally, 88% of owners of dogs in this study stated that their reason for castrating the dog was to attempt to resolve an existing behavior problem. Owners were also surveyed regarding the dog's behavior a mean of 27 months post-castration. These factors likely introduced a significant amount of bias.(28) Another performed statistical analysis but showed that the age when the dog was neutered was not correlated with the degree of improvement.(29) Most critically, neither of these two studies included a control group of intact dogs. One of the more important undesirable behavioral effects of spay/neuter for canine athletes was a finding of a significantly lowered energy level. This was shown in a study that was well controlled and examined over 3500 dogs.(26)

#### **Other Health Considerations**

- *Female, and sometimes male, dogs that are spayed/neutered before puberty have an increased risk of urinary incontinence and it is more severe in bitches spayed earlier.(30-33)*
- *Spayed female dogs displayed a significantly higher risk of hypothyroidism when compared to intact females.(34) A health survey of several thousand Golden Retrievers showed that spayed or neutered dogs were more likely to develop hypothyroidism.(2) Neutered male and spayed female dogs had higher relative risks of developing hypothyroidism than intact females.(35)*
- *Neutered females had a 22 times increased risk of developing fatal acute pancreatitis (multivariate analysis) as compared to intact females.(36)*
- *Risk of adverse reactions to vaccines is 27 to 38% greater in neutered dogs as compared to intact.(37)*
- *In a study of female Rottweilers there was a strong positive association between retention of the ovaries and longevity.(38)*

#### **Summary**

I have gathered these studies to show that the practice of routinely spaying or neutering every dog at or before the age of 6 months is not a black-and-white issue. Clearly more studies need to be undertaken to evaluate the effects of prepubertal spaying and neutering, particularly in canine athletes. After examining the risks and benefits, I have significant concerns with removal of the gonads in both males and females. It is clear that the gonads are not just important for reproduction, but play a critical role in growth, development and long-term health.

### Preventing Procreation

If we leave the gonads intact, how can we prevent the production of unwanted dogs? For *males*, the obvious solution is to keep them away from bitches in heat. But if an owner needs more certainty that a dog will not be bred, the answer is to perform a vasectomy. One possible disadvantage is that vasectomy does not prevent some unwanted behaviors associated with males such as marking and humping. On the other hand, females and neutered males frequently participate in these behaviors too. Training is the most effective solution to these behaviors. Another potential issue is finding a veterinarian who can perform the procedure. Veterinary schools do not currently teach students how to perform vasectomies. However, the methodology has been described and any board-certified surgeon can learn the technique. For a list of veterinarians who will perform the technique, contact the author at [mczink@caninesports.com](mailto:mczink@caninesports.com).

In *females*, the issues are more complex, because having a bitch in heat is inconvenient and leaving the uterus intact substantially increases the risk of pyometra (a serious, potentially fatal uterine infection). One solution might be to perform a hysterectomy (removal of the uterus), leaving the ovaries intact. Unfortunately, the effects of this technique on female dogs have never been studied. It is not known whether these dogs would continue to ovulate and perhaps show behavioral changes, although it is likely that there would be no discharge. Further, dogs that have this surgery will have intact ovaries, so veterinarians would need to establish an effective monitoring system for early detection of mammary cancer in intact bitches, as is available for women. In addition, there is the possibility of the dog developing stump pyometra if small amounts of uterine tissue are left behind during the hysterectomy. My current recommendation for performance dogs is to have them go through at least two heat cycles before spaying. Perhaps in the future hormone replacement therapy will be available for spayed females, but little is known about that at this time.

For *males with retained testicles*, there is a logical solution, based on fact. A large prospective study showed that the incidence of testicular cancer in cryptorchid dogs was 12.7/1000 dog-years at risk.<sup>(39)</sup> In other words, if 100 dogs with retained testicles live to be 10 years old, approximately 13 of them will develop cancer in the retained testicle. The average age at which tumors develop in undescended testes is 8.7 years.<sup>(40)</sup> These tumors are commonly benign, though they can grow quite large. Based on this study, I recommend that dogs with retained testicles have surgery to remove the retained testicle some time during the first three years of life and at that time they have a vasectomy on the remaining spermatic cord. This solution allows the dog to have the benefit of its sex hormones, but prevents passing this likely genetic condition on to offspring.

Most of all, it is important that we assess each dog and its living situation individually, weighing the risks and benefits of removal of the gonads. *There is no single solution that fits every dog.*



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## Mandatory Spay/Neuter A Case Study: Los Angeles

For six years, the intake rate for dogs and euthanasia declined.

Year	Intake	Euthanized	Change from previous year
2001	40,442	22,675	---
2002	34,295	17,335	-24%
2003	30,605	12,821	-62%
2004	26,949	9,985	-22%
2005	25,740	8,127	-19%
2006	24,999	6,949	-15%
2007	25,792	6,051	-13%

In 2008 the City passed a mandatory spay/neuter ordinance.

Here's what happened.

2008	30,813	7,518	+24%
2009	31,869	7,624	+1.5%
2010	33,396	8,210	+7.7%

Intake increased and more adoptable dogs were killed.



## Iraheta, Alba

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**From:** Stephanie <wolfheart93@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 14, 2014 12:20 AM  
**To:** Bogaard, Bill; Robinson, Jacque; McAustin, Margaret; Kennedy, John; Masuda, Gene; Gordo, Victor; Madison, Steve; Tornek, Terry; Beck, Michael; Gutierrez, Julie; Mermell, Steve; Bagneris, Michele; cityclerk; Foster, Siobhan; Walsh, Eric  
**Subject:** Mandatory Spay & Neuter - The All American Dog

Dear Council Members,

If the true intent of mandatory spay and neuter is to reduce shelter intake, then why enact legislation for only canines with certain features?

Shouldn't it be: "Your dog must be spayed or neutered unless he or she has a medical condition or is an AKC registered show dog—show me the papers"?

The legislation you're discussing tonight would instead make it: "Your dog is short, long and wire-haired so she can still have puppies, but your dog has a blocky head and stocky build so he must be neutered."

Why would you want to reduce shelter numbers, but only for what many refer to as "pit bull type" dogs? Why not Chihuahuas and Chihuahua mixes? They're being flown out of the county monthly because Los Angeles shelters are full of them. Why not all dogs since without AKC papers, it is impossible to determine what breed or breed mix a dog is with 100% accuracy?

The American Kennel Club, keeper of breed standards, knows that the canines that inhabit this country are as diverse in their ancestry as the people who love them. They recently opened registration to dogs that don't have a documented lineage. Through AKC Canine Partners, canines without papers (dogs rescued from shelters, or taken in off the streets) can earn AKC titles such as Therapy Dog and take part in AKC trials for Agility, Obedience, and Rally. The Club recognizes that it is not the genetics, but the individual dog, that make them winners.

Rather than force people to guess the breed mix of their canine companion, they created a category title both accurate and beautiful for all of them: the All American Dog.

That blocky-headed, goofy-grinned dog of unknown origin is an All American Dog. The scruffy, wire-haired canine is an All American Dog. The brown dog with the ridgeback and five o'clock shadow is an All American Dog. Any spayed or neutered dog without papers can be registered and acknowledged as an All American Dog.

I wonder if shelter workers processing dogs through intake had this option as a breed description if they would they use it. How many less "pit bulls" would you see in shelters? They have to click a box when the dog comes in. Blocky head? Pit Bull. Long snout? Shepherd. Little dog? Chihuahua.

Each and every one of them is really an All American Dog (officially only after being spayed or neutered and registered, but in essence by lineage alone.)

If you truly want to stop the killing in shelters and believe mandatory spay and neuter will help, then don't have it apply to only a bunch of dogs with similar appearance. Care about each and every dog—the purebreds and the All American Dogs: the tiny ones with short hair, the big ones with shaggy coats, and yes, even the stocky ones with blocky heads.

Please do not support breed specific legislation of any kind.

Thank you,  
Stephanie Wescott

07/14/2014  
Item 18

## Buchanan, Rita

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**To:** Buchanan, Rita (rbuchanan@cityofpasadena.net)  
**Subject:** FW: Support Mandatory Animal Spay/Neuter Program

**From:** Colleen Cleveland [<mailto:colleen.cleveland@live.com>]

**Sent:** Thursday, July 10, 2014 11:42 PM

**To:** Bogaard, Bill; district1; Morales, Margo; Cruz, Christian (Field Rep); West, Jana; Sullivan, Noreen; De La Cuba, Vannia; Madison, Steve; Tornek, Terry; cfodc

**Subject:** Support Mandatory Animal Spay/Neuter Program

To: Pasadena City Council

As a volunteer for a number of nonprofits dedicated to animal welfare that work with public Animal Control/Shelters, my family and I totally support any efforts to spay and neuter animals. In a perfect world, there would be no need for a mandatory program, but, alas, on too many occasions, shelters have been forced to euthanize for space. Many dogs and cats are out in foster homes, but that resource is being over-worked, and is not always optimal for meet/greet and adoption.

You will most likely hear many "statistics" from those who oppose spay/neuter. They will talk about the cost, the cost to enforce, disease, and a myriad of other negative aspects of spaying and neutering (that are rare). The overwhelming evidence is that spaying and neutering DOES indeed work for the benefit of all. They will also refute the fact that there is a pet overpopulation problem. We know otherwise and would ask them to just go to some of the websites where dogs and cats are available for adoption from nonprofits and public agencies. The proof is in those endless photos of pets who need homes.

Bottom line: Those who strongly deny that there is a pet overpopulation problem and/or are opposed to mandatory spay/neuter programs are often breeders or brokers and are a part of the problem.

We support your proposal and urge you to pass it.  
Colleen Randall and Family

## Iraheta, Alba

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**Subject:** FW: Mandatory Spay & Neuter - The All American Dog

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**From:** Stephanie [<mailto:wolfheart93@yahoo.com>]

**Sent:** Monday, July 14, 2014 12:05 PM

**To:** Madison, Steve

**Cc:** Bogaard, Bill; Robinson, Jacque; McAustin, Margaret; Kennedy, John; Masuda, Gene; Gordo, Victor; Tornek, Terry; Beck, Michael; Gutierrez, Julie; Mermell, Steve; Bagneris, Michele; cityclerk; Foster, Siobhan; Walsh, Eric

**Subject:** Re: Mandatory Spay & Neuter - The All American Dog

Councilman Madison,

Due to emails being public information, I am not comfortable giving you my home address online. However, I understand you are asking as you want to know how many Pasadena residents are commenting versus non-residents.

I attended two meetings earlier this year about this issue, and the Clerk has my complete information on file.

For your tally, I am a resident of Burbank, California where we have no mandatory spay & neuter laws, no breed specific legislation, and no problem with dog attacks to my knowledge. (I only mention this as having attended previous meetings, your motivation behind the legislation does not seem to be about cutting back shelter intake--which is what the State allows--but about a personal fear you have regarding canines that have a certain appearance.)

Thank you for taking the time to read my correspondence regardless of where I live.

---

**From:** "Madison, Steve" <[smadison@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:smadison@cityofpasadena.net)>

**To:** 'Stephanie' <[wolfheart93@yahoo.com](mailto:wolfheart93@yahoo.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, July 14, 2014 12:19 PM

**Subject:** RE: Mandatory Spay & Neuter - The All American Dog

Thank you for your views.

For my records, may I have a home address.

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**From:** Stephanie [<mailto:wolfheart93@yahoo.com>]

**Sent:** Monday, July 14, 2014 12:20 AM

**To:** Bogaard, Bill; Robinson, Jacque; McAustin, Margaret; Kennedy, John; Masuda, Gene; Gordo, Victor; Madison, Steve; Tornek, Terry; Beck, Michael; Gutierrez, Julie; Mermell, Steve; Bagneris, Michele; cityclerk; Foster, Siobhan; Walsh, Eric

**Subject:** Mandatory Spay & Neuter - The All American Dog

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Please do not support breed specific legislation of any kind.

Thank you,  
Stephanie Wescott

**Iraheta, Alba**

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**Subject:** FW: Opposition to Mandatory Spay and Neuter

**From:** Judith Brecka [<mailto:jbreckalaw@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Monday, July 14, 2014 11:40 AM

**To:** Bogaard, Bill; [mimorales@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:mimorales@cityofpasadena.net)

**Cc:** [Champfalf@hotmail.com](mailto:Champfalf@hotmail.com)

**Subject:** Opposition to Mandatory Spay and Neuter

Judith A. Brecka  
Law Offices of Judith A. Brecka  
2018 Pico Blvd  
Santa Monica, CA 90405  
Tel: (310) 450-8706 Fax: (310) 314-7360  
[jbreckalaw@gmail.com](mailto:jbreckalaw@gmail.com)

July 14, 2014

Mayor Bill Bogaard and City Council  
100 North Garfield Avenue Room S249  
Pasadena, CA 91109 sent via email only

**OPPOSITION TO MANDATORY SPAY/NEUTER PROPOSED ORDINANCE**

Dear Mayor Bogaard and City Council Members:

As legislative liaison for the Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club of America our club is on record opposing any sort of mandatory spay or neutering ordinance. Our first national specialty was held in Pasadena, CA at the Kennel Club of Pasadena show many years ago. Our club members continue to support shows, obedience and agility trials held in Pasadena, CA in Brookside Park near the Rose Bowl. Our club has members who reside in Pasadena, CA.

For the same reasons that we oppose breed specific mandatory spay or neuter ordinance we oppose all breed spay or neuter ordinances:

First, there are a number of studies which show the harmful effects on temperament on early spay of female dogs. The studies have shown greater aggression found in early spay female dogs. In addition, early spay and neutering is believed to lead to cancer and injuries of the long bones such as legs as the hormones are necessary for the growth plate to close properly.

Second, according to the staff report 87% of licensed dogs are spayed or neutered and only 4% of shelter dogs were euthanized due to lack of space. Although Pasadena offers a low cost spay or neuter for dogs, perhaps a survey or study needs to be implemented to determine which communities supply the shelter with

unlicensed or unclaimed dogs. The study should be undertaken using local community groups to determine whether assistance is needed to pay the dog license, whether transportation is needed to transport the dog to the low cost spay/neuter center and whether there is a need for low cost dog training that could be offered in the communities.

such a study would actually demonstrate to council members and the general public as to whether such an ordinance is necessary.

In closing spaying and neutering, particularly at any early age can cause more issues with temperament and will not decrease dog bites. Socialization and training can stop dog bites. As a hobby dog trainer I have seen many situations where the dog has given warning signs to a family that the dog would bite and bite severely but family members did not understand the warning signs nor did the family take the time to train the dog. Resource guarding and prey drive are all issues that should always be addressed in training classes. In addition, adults need to supervise children playing with the family dog as a pulled ear can result in a dog bite.

Sincerely,

Judith A. Brecka

Judith A. Brecka  
Legislative Liaison for  
Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club of America  
2018 Pico Blvd.  
Santa Monica, CA 90405  
Tel: (310) 450-8706  
Fax: (310) 314-7360  
Email: [jbreckalaw@gmail.com](mailto:jbreckalaw@gmail.com)