

Buchanan, Rita

Subject: FW: OPPOSITION to Mandatory Spay Neuter from Alaskan Malamute Club of America
Attachments: AMCA LOGO.jpg

From: Margaret Cleek [<mailto:cleekma@surewest.net>]

Sent: Monday, July 14, 2014 6:55 PM

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

Subject: RE: OPPOSITION to Mandatory Spay Neuter from Alaskan Malamute Club of America



Alaskan Malamute Club Of America, Inc.

Al Holabach, President
20127 45th Drive SE
Bothell, WA 98012-7324
(425) 481-4781
williwawmals@aol.com

No national animal welfare organizations support mandatory spay/neuter and in fact it is opposed by AKC, ASPCA, No Kill Advocacy Center, and the American College of Theriogenologists. **This opposition exists because mandatory spay/neuter policies are ineffective at reducing shelter intakes or euthanasia.**

The staff report indicates that the city is seeking to employ sterilization as a method to reduce dog bites. The literature on a relationship between dog bites and sterilization is mixed at best. A more effective option is to prevent situations that lead to dog through the use of a public education program. AKC has developed a video and workbook series, the Dog Listener, which teaches children about canine behavior, what to do when confronted with a strange or aggressive dog, and how to behave around dogs.

The American Kennel Club opposes mandatory spay/neuter as ineffective because it fails to address the underlying issue of irresponsible ownership. California state law already provides for the sterilization of animals adopted from shelters and mandates that the license fee for intact animals be at least double that of sterilized animals. The mandatory sterilization requirements proposed in this ordinance will merely punish those who are responsible owners and breeders, and the irresponsible owners who are not complying with current laws are likely to continue their behavior.

Many communities that have implemented mandatory spay/neuter policies have found them to be ineffective and expensive. For example, after Dallas, Texas enacted MSN policies in 2008, it experienced a 22 percent increase in animal control costs and an overall decrease in licensing compliance. MSN laws often result in owners either ignore animal control laws entirely, or relinquishing their pets to the public shelter to be cared for at the taxpayers' expense rather than pay for expensive sterilization surgery or breeder permits. According to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), some owners also opt to avoid rabies vaccinations and other general veterinary care in order to hide their lack of compliance with MSN laws.

Buchanan, Rita

Subject: FW: Why I'd never adopt a shelter dog again

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

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

Sent: Friday, July 18, 2014 9:01 AM

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

Subject: Why I'd never adopt a shelter dog again

Another reason to purchase from a reliable breeder - or get a puppy - baggage!!! This isn't saying you can't have health problems with a pure-bred, but you have a better chance. Also - you don't have the behavior problems that most likely resulted in the surrender to the shelter. Please read the article at the end of my note.

A few more points to keep in mind as you struggle with putting together more stringent laws on animal ownership:

1 - Take into consideration, a highly allergic child may be able to tolerate (live with) certain breeds and not others. When you introduce a mix, all bets are OFF!!! If you drive pure-bred breeders out of business, which seems to be the aim, where will this child obtain a dog that doesn't affect their allergies??

2 - Early spay/neuter can result in arrested development. That means the animal retains the puppy traits that it hadn't outgrown when it was castrated or hysterectomied. Many of these traits are exactly why the animal was surrendered in the first place. Wouldn't you want to know any quirks about something you purchase? And, if money takes place, isn't that a SALE????

3 - I also wonder about the "boomerang" effect - where "adopted" animals are returned to the shelter. No one ever mentions that problem. Also - I'd like to point out that the 73k+ kittens from one dam is a total exaggeration and has been proven thus. Feral cats do not have a projected long life due to coyotes, cars, and other natural calamities. But, they DO have a place in the wildlife cycle - by keeping down the supply of small rodents, that also restricts the number of rattlesnakes.

4 - I found it ironic that your Council was swearing in a woman to a city position - where she promised to uphold and protect the US and California Constitutions - yet the rights and choices of legal California citizens are being eroded every day. Think about it. Wouldn't an educated base be far more likely to stay legal and follow legitimate and sane laws???

Unintended consequences can be dire and severe. Be careful what you wish for - and be careful WHO you listen to. The research presented by the PHS is old and outdated. Your shelter director was unprepared. And, think on this - WHY would PETA and their "friends" be soooo outraged about ear cropping and tail docking - yet they are pushing for mandatory castration and hysterectomy, major operations with serious consequences (death from anesthesia, bleeding out, and the loss of hormones that secure a healthy adult).

Carol Hamilton

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

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/posteverything/wp/2014/07/17/why-id-never-adopt-a-shelter-dog-again/>

<http://tinyurl.com/q9ed7bq>

Why I'd never adopt a shelter dog again

By Erin Auerbach July 17

Erin Auerbach is a writer living in Los Angeles. She has written for Salon, the Los Angeles Times, and the Los Angeles Daily News.

“Why buy while those in shelters die?”

It's a pretty common mantra for pet rescue groups, one I'd taken to heart.

Even as a kid, my family only adopted from shelters. As an adult, I got my dogs from rescue organizations, secretly judging friends who bought theirs from breeders.

For a long time, it was a point of pride for me. When I brought home Mookie in 2000, everyone told me how lucky I was to find such a sweet animal. The 18-pound Boston terrier mix adored every person he met. He chased frogs in my condo complex and loved to play with stuffed animals.

He was more loyal and loving—not to mention happier to see me—than any of my dates.....

snip

...Rescue and shelter dogs are a crapshoot. Although it's hard to track down reliable statistics, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals estimates that about 3.9 million dogs go to shelters each year and 1.2 million are euthanized. Generally, these groups know only how an animal came into their possession. Behavior issues, illnesses or a high maintenance cost usually only rear their heads after adoption.

That's why rescuers put potential pet parents through such a detailed application process. They really want to match the animal with someone who is committed to sticking with them, no matter what. Still, according to the National Council on Pet Population Study and Policy, “more than 20 percent of people who leave dogs in shelters adopted them from a shelter.”....



Long-Term Health Effects of Neutering Dogs: Comparison of Labrador Retrievers with Golden Retrievers

Benjamin L. Hart, Lynette A. Hart, Abigail P. Thigpen, Neil H. Willits

Published: July 14, 2014 • DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0102241

Abstract

Our recent study on the effects of neutering (including spaying) in Golden Retrievers in markedly increasing the incidence of joint disorders prompted this study and a comparison of Golden and Labrador Retrievers. Veterinary hospital records were examined during specified age ranges: before 6 mo., and during 6–11 mo., year 1 or years 2 through 8. The joint disorders examined were hip dysplasia, elbow dysplasia, and osteoarthritis. The cancers examined were lymphosarcoma, hemangiosarcoma, mast cell tumor, and osteosarcoma. The results of the Labrador Retriever were similar to the previous study, but there were notable differences between breeds. In Labrador Retrievers, males and females had one or more joint disorders, neutering at <6 mo. doubled the incidence of one or more joint disorders, with the same 5 percent rate of joint disorders in intact dogs, neutering at <6 mo. increased the incidence of one or more cancers in female Labrador Retrievers slightly above the 3 percent level in intact females. In Golden Retrievers, with the same 3 percent rate of one or more cancers in intact females, neutering at all periods increased the incidence of one of the cancers by 3–4 times. In male Golden and Labrador Retrievers neutering had relatively minor effects on the incidence of cancers. The results of the two breeds suggest that the occurrence of cancers in female Golden Retrievers is a reflection of the occurrence of cancers in the two breeds.

Figures

Citation: Hart BL, Hart LA, Thigpen AP, Willits NH (2014) Long-Term Health Effects of Neutering Dogs: Comparison of Labrador Retrievers with Golden Retrievers. PLoS ONE 9(7): e102241. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0102241

Editor: Roger A. Coulombe, Utah State University, United States of America

Received: March 5, 2014; **Accepted:** June 17, 2014; **Published:** July 14, 2014

Copyright: © 2014 Hart et al. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.

Funding: This work was supported by the Canine Health Foundation (#01488-A) and the Center for Comparative Medicine (2009-54-F/M). The funders had no role in study design, data collection and analysis, decision to publish, or preparation of the manuscript.

Competing interests: The authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

Introduction

In the last three decades, the practice of spaying female dogs and castrating males (both referred to herein as neutering) that in the U.S., 83 percent of all dogs are neutered [1] and, increasingly, neutering is being performed prior to 6 months of age. The impetus for this widespread practice is presumably pet population control, and the belief that mammary tumor and aggressive male behavior is markedly less likely than in those neutered later. This societal practice in the U.S. contrasts with European countries, where neutering is commonly avoided and not promoted by animal health authorities [2]–[4].

In the last decade or so, studies have pointed to some of the adverse effects of neutering in dogs on several long-term health syndromes in one breed or in pooling data from several breeds. With regard to cancers, a study on osteosarcoma in neutered dogs relative to intact dogs [5], and in Rottweilers neutering prior to 1 year of age was associated with increased risk of osteosarcoma in intact dogs [6].

A study of cardiac hemangiosarcoma (HSA) in spayed females found that the incidence of this cancer was 4 times greater than in intact females. Splenic HSA in spayed females found rates 2 times greater than of intact females [8]. A study on lymphosarcoma in neutered dogs found a higher incidence of the disease than intact females [9]. Cutaneous mast cell tumors (MCT) were studied in several breeds and found a higher incidence in neutered females to 4 times that of intact females [10]. Another cancer of concern is prostate cancer that, in contrast to most other cancers, is associated with testosterone. One extensive study found that this cancer occurred in neutered males 4 times as frequently as in intact males [11].

The most frequently mentioned advantage of early neutering of female dogs is protection against mammary cancer. Several published studies on neutering females and MC found that the evidence linking neutering to a reduced risk of MC was weak [12].

Three very recent studies are particularly relevant in the discussion of neutering and cancers. One was a comparison of Golden Retrievers where males were compared with females and effects of neutering were evaluated in early-neutered males and late-neutered females [13]. Almost 10 percent of early-neutered males were diagnosed with LSA, 3 times more than intact males. In late-neutered females the rate was nearly 6 percent. The incidence of HSA in late-neutered females was also high, but was very low and was only seen in a couple of late-neutered females.

A study utilizing the Veterinary Medical Database of over 40,000 dogs found that neutered males and females were at higher risk of OSA, LSA and MCT [15]. This study included no information on age of neutering. The most recent study on owner-reported disease occurrence in an online survey, in which the incidence of cancers was reported higher in neutered dogs, the cancers related to neutering were LSA, HSA and MCT. The occurrence of MC was very low in females left intact [16].

With regard to joint disorders, one study of effects of neutering in larger breeds documents a 3-fold increase in the incidence of development of cranial cruciate ligament tears or rupture (CCL) [17]. Across several breeds, a study of CCL found neutered dogs more likely than intact dogs to have this disorder [18]. Neither study examined early versus late neutering with regard to joint disorders. A study on neutering in Golden Retrievers (mentioned above with regard to cancers [14]) included examination of joint disorders. In neutered dogs diagnosed with hip dysplasia (HD), double the occurrence of that in intact males. There were no cases of CCL in neutered males and females the occurrences were 5 percent and 8 percent, respectively.

One factor that merits attention with regard to the effects of neutering on joint disorders relates to documented effects of obesity reflected in body condition score (BCS). Additional weight on the joints is considered to play a role in the onset and progression of joint disorders. To increase BCS, the issue of concern here is whether neutered dogs with a joint disorder have consistently high BCS without the joint disorder in the same age range. In the previous analyses on Golden Retrievers [14] there was no consistent difference in BCS between dogs with and without a joint disorder. For dogs diagnosed with a joint disorder, some increase in BCS would be expected from painful joints. Therefore, a modestly higher BCS was predicted for neutered dogs with a joint disorder than for intact dogs.

The above study on Golden Retrievers [14] raised a major question about breed differences in the effects of neutering on puppies when deciding if, and when, to neuter. A more basic issue concerns insights into the possible pathogenesis of joint disorders under consideration. The present study, using the same veterinary hospital database, explored the effects of neutering in Labrador Retriever to compare with the Golden Retriever, with an addition of several years to the database. The

mo., 12–23 mo. (1 year), and 2 through 8 years to provide more detailed information on the effects of gonadal hormone removal, particularly vulnerable to cancers [21], so we expected some major differences from the Labrador where cancer-

In addition to reporting on the incidence of the individual joint disorders and cancers, a new slant on analyses in joint disorders that have shown evidence of being increased by neutering (HD, CCL, and elbow dysplasia, ED) for dogs diagnosed with at least one of the joint disorders, after controlling for multiple diagnoses. This analysis was based on the avoidance of any of the debilitating joint disorders would be of prime interest. This analysis was also deemed logical because disruption of the growth plate closure by gonadal hormone removal in the joint developmental stage would be expected to increase the incidence of dogs diagnosed with at least one of the cancers (LSA, HSA, MCT) for one data point, dog owners avoidance of any of the cancers would be important. This analysis seemed logical, as there may be particular cancers in neutered dogs because these cancers are repeatedly reported as being increased by neutering.

Methods

Ethics Statement

No animal care and use committee approval was required because, in conformity with campus policy, the only data were in the hospital records. Upon approval, faculty from the University of California, Davis (UCD), School of Veterinary Medicine, and the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital (VMTH). The co-authors of this study were given permission to use the data for this study.

Data Collection

The dataset used in this study was obtained from the computerized hospital record system (Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital (VMTH) at UCD. The subjects included were gonadally intact and neutered female dogs from 1 through 8 years of age and admitted to the hospital between January 1, 2000 and December 31, 2012, for a disease analysis, but before 12 months of age or before January 1, 2000, that case was removed for that specific disease analysis, but

Data on patients at 9 years of age or older were not considered. This was deemed an appropriate cut-off point in aged dogs where the effects of aging would confound interpreting the disease effects related to neutering. Additional data on date of birth, age at neutering (if neutered) and age of diagnosis (or onset of clinical signs) of the joint disorder were collected for 6–11 mo., 1 year (12 - <24 mo.), and 2–8 years (2 - <9 years). For all neutered dogs, the neuter status at the time of neutering occurred prior to onset of the first clinical signs or diagnosis of any disease of interest. If a disease of interest was recorded as intact for that specific disease analysis. For the same dog where a different disease occurred a different disease analysis. Detailed reviews of patient records were performed for evidence of disease occurrence in the database. In screening, only diseases with at least 15 cases in the database were included in the study.

For both breeds, many cases with neutering did not include detailed data on age at neutering. With a very large number of dogs with these data to restrict the analyses to cases for which the age at time of neutering was available. In some cases, where additional neutering date information was necessary, telephone calls to the referring veterinarians were made for patients born after 2000. Because of the number of neutered dogs where age at neutering was not available from the database, proportionately more intact cases in the final data set than would be expected in the population at large.

Golden Retriever cases with complete data for analyses totaled 1,015, with 543 males (315 neutered and 228 intact) and Labrador Retriever cases with complete data for analyses totaled 1,500 cases with 808 males (272 neutered and 536 intact). The number of cases analyzed for each disease varied somewhat among diseases because a case could be made prior to 1 year of age, was unconfirmed, or was outside of study range, but would be included for other diseases if the diagnoses were confirmed after 1 year of age and within the study range.

Table 1 defines the categories of diagnoses based on information in the record of each case. A patient was confirmed at the VMTH or by a referring veterinarian and later confirmed at the VMTH. Patients diagnosed with difficulty moving, standing up, lameness, and/or joint pain; diagnoses were confirmed with radiographic evidence. Diagnoses of the various cancers (LSA, HSA, MCT, MC) were accompanied by clinical signs such as presence of masses, and confirmed by imaging, appropriate blood cell analyses, chemical panels, histopathology, ultrasonic evidence and/or post-surgically after removal of the uterus. When a diagnosis was listed in the record but diagnostic tests were inconclusive, the case was excluded from the analysis for that specific disease, but included

Classification	Definition
No disease	No evidence of a joint disorder or cancer of interest in the medical records.
Diagnosed at the VMTH	Diagnosed at the VMTH.
Referring veterinarian/VMTH	Diagnosed by referring veterinarian and confirmed at the VMTH through treatment or further testing.
Referring veterinarian	Diagnosed by referring veterinarian, but no confirming diagnostic tests done at the VMTH. Unconfirmed cases were excluded from analysis for the specific joint disorder or cancer.
Unlikely (suspected)	Diagnosis was suspected based on clinical signs, but diagnostic tests were inconclusive or not done. Unconfirmed cases were excluded from analysis for the suspected joint disorder or cancer.
Unlikely (confirmed)	Diagnosed prior to January 2000 or before 1 year of age (breed rules were excluded from analysis for the specific joint disorder or cancer).

Table 1. Categories used in determining diagnosis for joint disorders and cancers of interest in Golden Retriever admitted to the Veterinary Medical Hospital, University of California, Davis, from 2000–2012.
doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0102241.t001

The analyses used in Figures 1 and 2 portray single data-points representing the incidence of dogs diagnosed with a specific disease after controlling for multiple diagnoses. The data for incidence of individual joint disorders and cancers are presented in

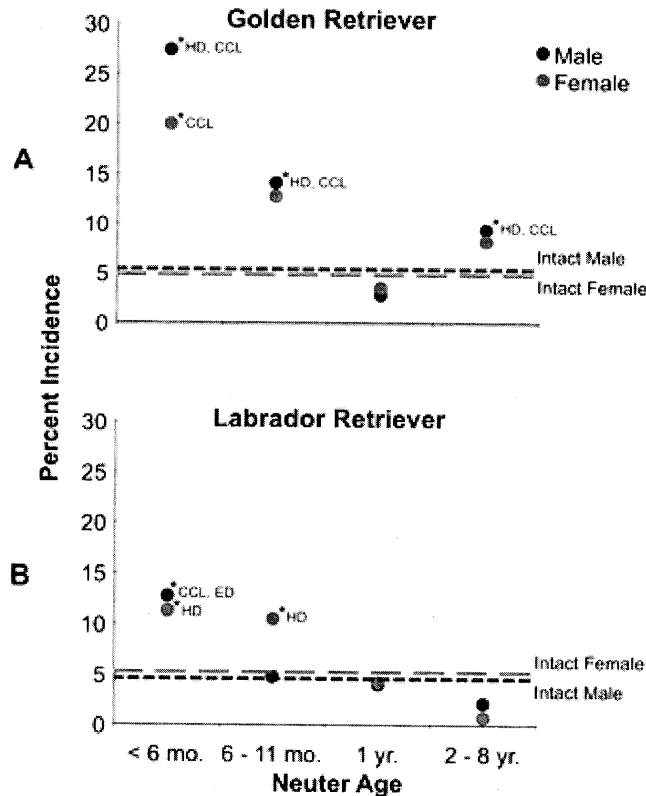


Figure 1. Incidence of the occurrence of at least one joint disorder in male and female Golden Retriever function of age at neutering.

The occurrences in intact males and females for the same measure are shown by the horizontal lines. The and the abbreviations reveal the joint disorders contributing to the dots when significant.
doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0102241.g001

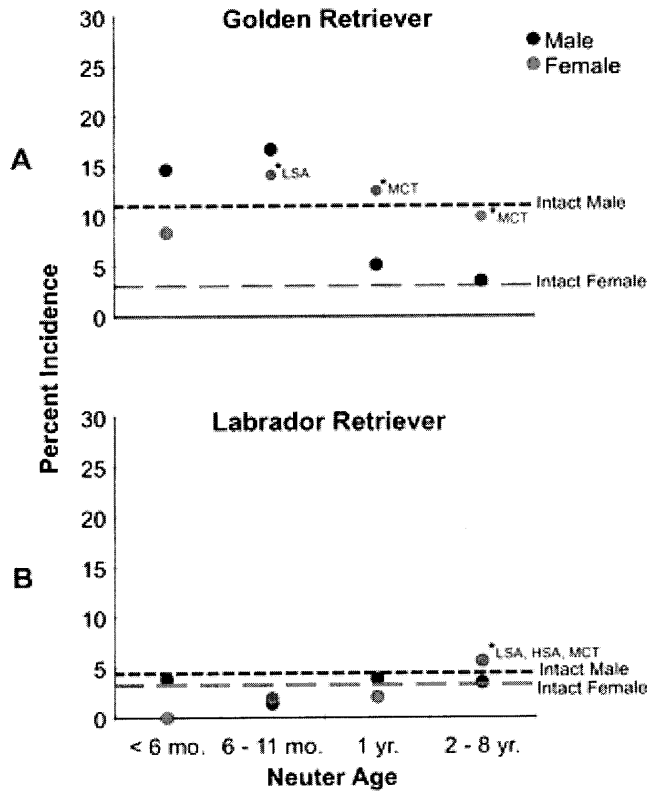


Figure 2. Incidence of the occurrence of at least one cancer in male and female Golden Retrievers (to function of age at neutering.

The occurrences in intact males and females for the same measures are shown by the horizontal lines. The and the abbreviations reveal the cancers contributing to the dots when significant.
doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0102241.g002

	HS	COL	SD
Male < 6 months	1175 (16.4%)	479 (6.6%)	354 (4.8%)
Male 6 - 11 months	971 (17.9%)	412 (7.5%)	415 (7.6%)
Male 1 year	158 (2.8%)	84 (1.5%)	54 (1.0%)
Male 2 - 8 years	445 (7.2%)	219 (3.6%)	94 (1.5%)
Male intact	622 (8.0%)	326 (4.2%)	322 (4.2%)
Female < 6 months	93 (1.7%)	11 (0.2%)	9 (0.2%)
Female 6 - 11 months	479 (8.6%)	401 (7.3%)	381 (6.9%)
Female 1 year	50 (0.9%)	5 (0.1%)	1 (0.0%)
Female 2 - 8 years	486 (8.4%)	309 (5.5%)	286 (5.1%)
Female intact	1581 (15.6%)	815 (8.0%)	2156 (21.2%)

For ages 1 through 8 years for each neuter period, the joint disorders are: hip dysplasia (HD), cranial cruciate ligament tear or rupture (CC), and elbow dysplasia (ED). Values are number of cases over number in the box, with percentages given in parentheses. Values below the incidence is significantly above that of intact dogs.
doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0102241.t002

Table 2. Golden Retriever males and females, joint disorders.
doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0102241.t002

	LSA	MCT	HSA
Male <6 months	4/88 (5.7%)	5/90 (5.5%)	5/90 (5.5%)
Male 6-11 months	14/122 (11.4%)	4/104 (3.8%)	3/120 (2.5%)
Male 1 year	5/41 (12%)	1/40 (2.5%)	1/39 (2.5%)
Male 2-8 years	0/34 (0%)	1/40 (2.5%)	0/39 (0%)
Male intact	9/226 (3.9%)	6/225 (2.6%)	6/226 (2.6%)
Female <6 months	4/58 (6.9%)	8/91 (8.7%)	1/92 (1.1%)
Female 6-11 months	8/82 (9.8%)	1/83 (1.2%)	5/79 (6.3%)
Female 1 year	2/12 (16.7%)	1/12 (8.3%)	1/12 (8.3%)
Female 2-8 years	5/84 (5.9%)	8/88 (9.1%)	2/86 (2.3%)
Female intact	3/166 (1.8%)	0/83 (0%)	2/85 (2.3%)

For ages 1 through 8 years, for each cancer panel, the cancers are lymphosarcoma (LSA), mast cell tumor (MCT), and hemangiosarcoma (HSA). Shown are number of cases over number in the pool with percentages given in parentheses; when bolded the incidence is significantly above that of intact dogs. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0102241.t003

Table 3. Golden Retriever males and females, cancers.
doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0102241.t003

	HQ	CCL	ED
Male <6 months	0/80 (0%)	4/83 (4.8%)	2/88 (2.3%)
Male 6-11 months	1/48 (2.1%)	2/73 (2.7%)	0/47 (0%)
Male 1 year	0/30 (0.0%)	1/32 (3.1%)	0/44 (0%)
Male 2-8 years	0/32 (0%)	0/33 (0%)	1/31 (3.2%)
Male intact	8/528 (1.5%)	13/511 (2.5%)	3/525 (0.5%)
Female <6 months	1/36 (2.8%)	3/39 (7.7%)	1/41 (2.4%)
Female 6-11 months	5/69 (7.2%)	5/61 (8.2%)	0/48 (0%)
Female 1 year	2/47 (4.3%)	0/33 (0%)	0/30 (0%)
Female 2-8 years	0/31 (0%)	0/38 (0.0%)	0/33 (0%)
Female intact	0/441 (0%)	6/483 (1.2%)	4/441 (0.9%)

For ages 1 through 8 years, for each cancer panel, the joint disorders are hip dysplasia (HQ), cranial cruciate ligament tear or malformation (CCL), and elbow dysplasia (ED). Shown are number of cases over number in the pool with percentages given in parentheses; when bolded the incidence is significantly above that of intact dogs. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0102241.t004

Table 4. Labrador Retriever males and females, joint disorders.
doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0102241.t004

	LSA	MCT	HSA
Male <6 months	0/52 (0%)	0/59 (0.0%)	0/58 (0%)
Male 6-11 months	0/73 (0%)	2/73 (2.7%)	0/71 (0.0%)
Male 1 year	0/32 (0.0%)	0/33 (0%)	0/31 (0.0%)
Male 2-8 years	0/34 (0%)	1/40 (2.5%)	0/39 (0%)
Male intact	6/330 (1.8%)	13/511 (2.5%)	7/511 (1.4%)
Female <6 months	0/34 (0%)	0/39 (0%)	0/41 (0%)
Female 6-11 months	0/70 (0%)	2/61 (3.3%)	0/64 (0%)
Female 1 year	0/43 (0%)	0/33 (0%)	0/30 (0%)
Female 2-8 years	0/31 (0.0%)	0/38 (0.0%)	0/33 (0%)
Female intact	0/441 (0.0%)	6/483 (1.2%)	4/441 (0.9%)

For ages 1 through 8 years, for each cancer panel, the cancers are lymphosarcoma (LSA), mast cell tumor (MCT), and hemangiosarcoma (HSA). Shown are number of cases over number in the pool with percentages given in parentheses; when bolded the incidence is significantly above that of intact dogs. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0102241.t005

Table 5. Labrador Retriever males and females, cancers.
doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0102241.t005

Given that body weights are difficult to compare among dogs because of the confounding factor of variations in the VMTH is the standard 1–9 range where a score of 5 is the goal [22]. Typically, the clinician assigns the BCS study the BCSs at the time of diagnosis (or clinical signs) of neutered dogs with joint disorders were compared v age that fell within the range representing 80 percent of the ages of dogs with the disorder at the time of diagnosis with and without joint disorders for the disorders that were significantly increased in incidence over that of intact such differences. For the few joint disorders associated with neutering at one year or beyond, the BCSs were no comparisons. The data are represented as medians to reduce the impact of outliers.

Statistical Analyses

As shown in Table 2, the main joint disorders related to neutering females at the <6 mo. period were HD and CC did not reach significance compared with intact females (4 percent), but CCL, which was not seen in any of the 11 mo. and 2–8 year neuter periods ($p < 0.001$ to $p = 0.03$). The mean age of diagnosis of CCL in females was 5. The mean age of diagnosis of ED in females, w

The median BCS of neutered females with CCL was 6.0 and the median BCS of the neutered females without C BCS was 5.0.

Golden Retriever Females: Cancers

Figure 2-A presents the incidence of females having at least one of the cancers where the incidence of cancers over all the neuter periods ranged from 8 to 14 percent. Combining all of the neuter periods beyond 6 m incidence level across all these neuter periods was significantly higher than that of intact females ($p = 0.049$). Th increases the risk of acquiring at least one of the cancers to a level 3–4 times that of leaving the female dog inta

Examination of Table 3 shows that the main cancer resulting from neutering females at <6 mo. and 6–11 mo. wa of intact females reached significance ($p = 0.014$). The mean age of diagnosis of LSA in females was 5.5 years. period of neutering was MCT ($p = 0.013$). The occurrence of HSA, although increased by neutering beyond 1 ye mean age of diagnosis of both MCT and HSA in females was 6.5 years.

The occurrence of MC was not seen in any of the intact females. This cancer was seen only in dogs neutered in percent. The occurrence of pyometra in intact females was 1.8 percent, which was diagnosed at the mean age c

Labrador Retriever Males: Joint Disorders

Figure 1-B illustrates the incidence of males having at least one of the joint disorders. The only neuter period wh 5 percent level of intact males, was at <6 mo., where this measure was 12.5 percent ($p = 0.014$). Examining the increased by neutering at any time. However, at the <6 mo. neuter period, both CCL and ED were significantly ir ED, there was a moderate increased risk with the 2–8 year neuter period to about 2 percent compared with the I The mean age of diagnosis of ED in males was 3 years, considerably less than that for CCL, which was 4.5 year

The median BCS of neutered males with CCL was 6.0 and the median BCS of the neutered males without CCL 6.0 and for intact males without CCL the median BCS was 5. The median BCS of neutered males with ED was 6 ED was 5.0. In intact males with and without ED the BCS was 5.0.

Labrador Retriever Males: Cancers

The underlying rate of intact males having at least one of the cancers was 4.6 percent. Neutering at any age per occurrence above the level of intact males (Figure 2-B and Table 5).

Labrador Retriever Females: Joint Disorders

As portrayed in Figure 1-B, at neuter periods <6 mo. and 6–11 mo. the risk of dogs having at least one of the joi level of intact females ($p = 0.044$; 0.043). In contrast to male Labradors, the females seemed to be vulnerable to neutering effects on HD were evident through 1 year, where the incidence was 4–5 percent compared to 1.5 per mean age of diagnosis of HD was 3.5 years, and for ED, 2.5 years. As in male Labradors, CCL in females was ii significantly so. The mean age of diagnosis of CCL in females was 5.5 years.

The median BCS of neutered females with HD was 5.5, and the median BCS of neutered females without HD w and for those without HD the median BCS was 5.0.

Labrador Retriever Females: Cancers

As seen in Figure 2-B, the underlying rate of intact females having at least one cancer of those tracked was 3.2 Golden Retrievers, the only increase in the incidence of dogs having at least one cancer, was with the 2–8 year neuter period (p = 0.03), a reflection of the increased occurrence of LSA and MCT (Table 5). The mean age of diagnosis was 10.5 years, respectively.

With regard to MC, only 1.4 percent of the intact females were diagnosed with MC. With the 2–8 year neuter period, Pyometra was diagnosed in just less than 4 percent of intact females. The mean age of diagnosis of pyometra was 10.5 years, respectively.

Discussion

Both the Golden Retriever and Labrador Retriever are very popular breeds that have found wide acceptance as companion animals. The two breeds are similar in body size, conformation and in behavioral characteristics [25], and they are both game retrievers. Using the same database and methodology, the two breeds were contrasted with regard to the occurrence of ED and three cancers (LSA, HSA, MCT). In addition to reporting the occurrence of the three joint disorders and one of the joint disorders, or at least one of the cancers, was plotted graphically (Figures 1 and 2). The findings are presented in the earlier study drawn from this same database with a somewhat smaller data set [14].

The present study reveals that the breeds respond very differently to the effects of neutering on joint disorders. In Golden Retrievers, neutering at <6 mo. resulted in an incidence of one or more joint disorders, in Golden Retrievers, neutering at <6 mo. resulted in an incidence of 11–12 percent for one or more joint disorders, roughly double the incidence of intact males and females. In male and female Labrador Retrievers, with the same neutering at <6 mo. resulted in an incidence of 11–12 percent for one or more joint disorders, roughly double the incidence of intact males and females. In male and female Labrador Retrievers, with the same neutering at the standard <6 mo. period markedly and significantly increased the occurrence of joint disorders, a difference in the specific joints affected was that in male Golden Retrievers HD and CCL were mostly increased. The effects of neutering in the first year of a dog's life, especially in larger breeds, undoubtedly reflects the vulnerability of the growth plates from gonadal hormone removal [26], [27]. Differences in the two breeds studied here could be due to differences in gonadal hormone removal.

The BCSs in neutered dogs with the different joint disorders were compared with neutered dogs without the joint disorders. In Golden Retrievers, neutered dogs with joint disorders were expected to have a modestly higher BCS as a function of reduced activity from painful joints, the issue of cancer and markedly higher BCS than comparable neutered dogs without a joint disorder. The BCS comparisons revealed that neutered dogs with joint disorders had a higher BCS (except for ED in male Labradors where the difference was 1.5). The general picture of BCSs of neutered dogs with joint disorders is higher than the BCSs of neutered dogs without joint disorders, is consistent with the perspective that the increase in BCS is the effect of gonadal hormonal removal on bone growth plates and not to greater weight on the joints.

Data on the effects of neutering on the occurrence of cancers in the two breeds also reveal important breed differences. In Golden Retrievers, the occurrence of one or more cancers in intact dogs ranged from 3 to 5 percent, except for Golden Retriever males where the level in intact dogs was 3.2 percent. In Golden Retrievers, neutering females at any neuter period beyond 6 months elevated the risk of one or more cancers to 3 to 4 times the level in intact females. In Labrador Retrievers, neutering appeared to have little effect in the occurrence of one or more of the three cancers. An exception was in male Labradors where neutering at <6 mo. period. In both male and female Labrador Retrievers, neutering at any period appeared to have little effect on the occurrence of one or more cancers.

The striking effect of neutering in female Golden Retrievers compared to male and female Labradors, and male Golden Retrievers, suggests that the presence of gonadal hormones has a protective effect against cancers over most years of the dog's life. The sites of some potentially metastatic cancer cells to gonadal hormone removal and/or prolonged levels of the gonadal hormones. Gonadotropin receptors have been identified in some extragonadal tissues. For example, in the dog these receptors have been identified in the adrenal gland [30]. Treatment of one or more of these cancers by a receptor-site blocking agent may be worth exploring. The occurrence of one or more cancers in intact male Golden Retrievers, coupled with the relative absence of an effect of neutering, except with regard to the occurrence of one or more cancers in this gender and breed that is not affected by gonadal hormone removal.

The findings presented here are clinically relevant in two realms. For dog owners of the popular Golden Retriever importance of acquiring information needed to decide if, and when, to neuter. Aside from avoiding increased risk that age-related cognitive decline could be accelerated by neutering [31]. This is particularly relevant for service expected tasks.

The findings of this study also have important implications for investigators looking for canine models for research cancers of interest, not only may breeds vary in predisposition but also the possibility of interactions between gonadal hormone alteration should be taken into account in selecting the model and in investigating causal factors.

Acknowledgments

Special thanks are extended to Marty Bryant, Cristina Bustamante, Valerie Caceres, Madeline Courville, Siobha

Author Contributions

Conceived and designed the experiments: BLH LAH. Performed the experiments: APT BLH LAH. Analyzed the data: APT. Edited manuscript: NHW.

References

1. Trevejo R, Yang M, Lund EM (2011) Epidemiology of surgical castration of dogs and cats in the United States. *JAVMA* 238.7:898–904. doi: 10.2460/javma.238.7.898
View Article • PubMed/NCBI • Google Scholar
2. Sallander M, Hedhammer A, Rundgren M, Lindberg JE (2001) Demographic data of population of insured dogs in Sweden. *Acta Vet Scand* 42: 71–80.
View Article • PubMed/NCBI • Google Scholar
3. Kubinyi E, Turcsan B, Miklosi A (2009) Dog and owner demographic characteristics and dog personality. *PLoS One* 4(4): e5582. doi: 10.1016/j.beproc.2009.04.004
View Article • PubMed/NCBI • Google Scholar
4. Diesel G, Brodbelt D, Laurence C (2010) Survey of veterinary practice policies and opinions on neutering dogs. *Vet Rec* 167: 10–15. doi: 10.1111/j.2469-7580.2010.02388.x
View Article • PubMed/NCBI • Google Scholar
5. Ru G, Terracini B, Glickman LT (1998) Host related risk factors for canine osteosarcoma. *Vet J* 156: 31–35. doi: 10.1053/vetj.1998.156031
View Article • PubMed/NCBI • Google Scholar
6. Cooley DM, Beranek BC, Schlittler DL, Glickman MW, Glickman LT, et al. (2002) Endogenous gonadal hormones and the risk of osteosarcoma in dogs. *Epidemiol Biomarkers Prevent* 11: 1434–1440. doi: 10.1158/1539-3757.2002.11.1434
View Article • PubMed/NCBI • Google Scholar
7. Ware WA, Hopper DL (1999) Cardiac tumors in dogs: 1982–1995. *J Vet Intern Med* 13: 95–103. doi: 10.1111/j.1479-8918.1999.tb00111.x
View Article • PubMed/NCBI • Google Scholar
8. Prymak C, McKee LJ, Goldschmidt MH, Glickman LT (1988) Epidemiologic, clinical, pathologic, and prognostic factors in splenic hematomas in dogs: 217 cases (1985). *J Am Vet Med Assoc* 193: 706–712.

[View Article](#) • [PubMed/NCBI](#) • [Google Scholar](#)

9. Villamil JA, Henry CJ, Hahn AW, Bryan JN, Tyler JW (2009) Epidemiology of canine lymphoma. *J Cancer Epidemiol* 2009: 1–7 doi:10.1155/2009/591753.

[View Article](#) • [PubMed/NCBI](#) • [Google Scholar](#)

10. White CR, Hohenhaus AE, Kelsey J, Procter-Grey E (2011) Cutaneous MCTs: Associations with spay/neuter. *J Am Anim Hosp Assoc* 47: 210–216. doi: 10.5326/jaaha-ms-5621

[View Article](#) • [PubMed/NCBI](#) • [Google Scholar](#)

11. Teske E, Naan EC, van Dijk E, Van Garderen E, Schalken JA (2002) Canine prostate carcinoma: epidemiology in dogs. *Mol Cell Endocrinol* 197: 251–255. doi: 10.1016/s0303-7207(02)00261-7

[View Article](#) • [PubMed/NCBI](#) • [Google Scholar](#)

12. Root Kustritz MV (2007) Determining the optimal age for gonadectomy of dogs and cats. *J Am Vet Med Assoc* 271: 1660–1665. doi: 10.2460/javma.271.11.1665

[View Article](#) • [PubMed/NCBI](#) • [Google Scholar](#)

13. Beauvais W, Cardwell JM, Brodbelt DC (2012) The effect of neutering on the risk of mammary tumours in dogs. *Vet Rec* 171: 314–322. doi: 10.1111/j.1748-5827.2011.01220.x

[View Article](#) • [PubMed/NCBI](#) • [Google Scholar](#)

14. Torres de la Riva G, Hart BL, Farver TB, Oberbauer AM, McV Messam LL, et al. (2013) Neutering Dogs and Retrievers. *PLOS ONE* 2013 8 (2) e55937 doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0055937.

[View Article](#) • [PubMed/NCBI](#) • [Google Scholar](#)

15. Hoffman JM, Creevy KE, Promislow DEL (2013) Reproductive capability is associated with lifespan and healthspan in dogs. *PLOS ONE* 2013 8 (4) e61082 doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0061082.

[View Article](#) • [PubMed/NCBI](#) • [Google Scholar](#)

16. Zink MC, Farhooody P, Elser SE, Ruffini LD, Gibbons TA, et al. (2014) Evaluation of the risk and age of onset of mammary tumors in gonadectomized Vizslas. *J Am Vet Med Assoc* 244: 309–319. doi: 10.2460/javma.244.3.309

[View Article](#) • [PubMed/NCBI](#) • [Google Scholar](#)

17. Duerr FM, Duncan CG, Savicky RS, Park RD, Egger EL, et al. (2007) Risk factors for excessive tibial plateau disease in dogs. *J Am Vet Med Assoc* 231: 1688–1691. doi: 10.2460/javma.231.11.1688

[View Article](#) • [PubMed/NCBI](#) • [Google Scholar](#)

18. Witsberger TH, Villamil JA, Schultz LG, Hahn AW, Cook JL (2008) Prevalence of, and risk factors for, hip dysplasia in dogs. *J Am Vet Med Assoc* 232: 1818–1824. doi: 10.2460/javma.232.12.1818

[View Article](#) • [PubMed/NCBI](#) • [Google Scholar](#)

19. Dobson JM (2013) Breed-predispositions to cancer in pedigree dogs. *Vet Sci* 2013: 1–23. doi: 10.1155/2013/1123

[View Article](#) • [PubMed/NCBI](#) • [Google Scholar](#)

20. Kasström H (1975) Nutrition, weight gain and development of hip dysplasia. An experimental investigation of feeding intensity. *Acta Radiologica* 344: 135–179 Supplementum.

[View Article](#) • [PubMed/NCBI](#) • [Google Scholar](#)

21. Duval JM, Budsberg SC, Flo GL, Sammarco JI (1999) Breed, sex, and body weight as risk factors for renal disease in dogs. *J Am Vet Med Assoc* 215: 811–814.

[View Article](#) • [PubMed/NCBI](#) • [Google Scholar](#)

22. Baldwin K, Bartges J, Buffington T, Freeman LM, Grabow M, et al. (2010) AAHA nutritional assessment 46: 285–296.
View Article • PubMed/NCBI • Google Scholar
23. Cox DR (1972) Regression models and life tables (with discussion). *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society*
View Article • PubMed/NCBI • Google Scholar
24. Rothman KJ, Greenland S (1998) *Modern Epidemiology*. Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.
25. Hart BL, Hart LA (1988) *The Perfect Puppy. How to Choose Your Dog by Its Behavior*. New York: W.H. I
26. Salmeri KR, Bloomberg MS, Scruggs SL, Shille V (1991) Gonadectomy in immature dogs: Effects on skin
Med Assoc 198: 1193–1203.
View Article • PubMed/NCBI • Google Scholar
27. Grumbach M (2000) Estrogen, bone growth and sex: a sea of change in conventional wisdom. *J Ped En*
View Article • PubMed/NCBI • Google Scholar
28. Concannon PW (1993) Biology of gonadotrophin secretion in adult and prepubertal female dogs. *J Repr*
View Article • PubMed/NCBI • Google Scholar
29. Reichler IM, Welle M, Eckrich C, Sattler U, Barth A, et al. (2008) Spaying-induced coat changes: the role
hair cycle of female dogs. *Vet Dermatol* 19: 77–87. doi: 10.1111/j.1365-3164.2008.00652.x
View Article • PubMed/NCBI • Google Scholar
30. Fields MJ, Shemesh M (2004) Extragonadal luteinizing hormone receptors in the reproductive tract of dc
10.1095/biolreprod.104.027201
View Article • PubMed/NCBI • Google Scholar
31. Hart BL (2001) Effects of gonadectomy on subsequent development of age-related cognitive impairment
10.2460/javma.2001.219.51
View Article • PubMed/NCBI • Google Scholar
32. Vail DM, MacEwen EG (2002) Spontaneously occurring tumors of companion animals as models for hur
10.3109/07357900009012210
View Article • PubMed/NCBI • Google Scholar
33. Khanna C, Lindblad-Toh K, Vail D, London C, Bergman P, et al. (2006) The dog as a cancer model. *Nat*
1065b
View Article • PubMed/NCBI • Google Scholar

Iraheta, Alba

From: Garrett Lopez <xxlopez88xx@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, July 14, 2014 5:27 PM
Cc: Bogaard, Bill; Robinson, Jacque; McAustin, Margaret; Kennedy, John; Masuda, Gene; Gordo, Victor; Madison, Steve; Tornek, Terry; Beck, Michael; jqutierrez@cityofpasadena.net; Mermell, Steve; Bagneris, Michele; cityclerk; Foster, Siobhan; Walsh, Eric
Subject: Breed Specific Legislation

Dear council members,

My name is Garrett Lopez and I am a responsible pit bull owner, and I work at Umami Burger in Old Town Pasadena. I am writing to tell you that I oppose any kind of Breed Specific Legislation.

Sent from my iPhone

Buchanan, Rita

Subject: FW: Council Meeting July 14, 2014

From: For the Love of Animals Dog & Cat Rescue [<mailto:fla@flarescue.org>]

Sent: Tuesday, July 15, 2014 7:44 PM

To: district1; Morales, Margo; Cruz, Christian (Field Rep); Sullivan, Noreen; De La Cuba, Vannia; Madison, Steve; Tornek, Terry

Subject: Council Meeting July 14, 2014

To Pasadena City Council,

I attended the meeting last night, and I left at the end of the meeting once it was obvious that the motion was going through to look at mandatory spay and neuter. When I first thought of this motion I was for it. I am part of a small dog and cat rescue and I understand the harm of unwanted dogs and cats, and I understand the importance to reduce our numbers of unloved animals. I spoke toward the end of the evening but with a 90 second time limit I did not say all that I wanted to say. So I would very much appreciate you all reading my thoughts and a response would be appreciated.

When I spoke last night, I mentioned the primary reason I attended is the same reason I came to your January meeting. I am pro all breeds and so against breed specific legislation. I know all dogs and cats should be honored, loved and respected without prejudice. There is no bad breed. I now have 7 dogs and 8 cats in my family (this includes my 3 adult children who have their family of animals too). In this group of 7 dogs there is one Chihuahua, one poodle mix, one flat coat retriever mix, one English sheepdog/Irish wolfhound mix, and three pit bulls ('pitties' as we like to call them). These dogs were all rescued from the street or the shelters. And they do great together.

I think your efforts and time and funds need to be put toward education. I am a teacher and I think it is imperative that we change the thoughts of our citizens. We have a diverse culture in our society and with that comes a variety of ideas of how to care for and love our animals. Many of these thoughts however are not the best for our animals. If we can reach our younger generations now and educate the children then maybe our future has a chance. We need to get to the roots of the problem of overpopulation of unwanted or uncared for dogs and cats. One serious part of this problem is backyard breeding. Many of these dogs and cats are bred out of ignorance - families not spaying or neutering their animals because they project negative human emotions of sterility onto their pets or think it would be "fun" to have a litter. Many cases of backyard breeding are due to the high cost at local veterinary hospitals to spay or neuter their dogs and cats. These families do not know enough about low cost spay and neuter clinics or they are difficult to access for some reason. And still more breed for extra cash or a way to make a living - but they are not testing the dogs for genetic defects or pursuing this option as a professional breeding business. As a rescue, we often run into young people that stand on street corners with their 6 week old pups that are fluffy and cute and they are selling them for \$300 to \$350 each. This is not an adoption with a contract to make sure the dog is fixed when old enough, this is selling for a profit! These puppies and kittens have not been vaccinated and there is no plan for spay or neuter unless responsible people intervene in some way.

Pasadena and our surrounding cities needs to stop this action by fining these people a great deal of money. When backyard breeders are caught fine the heck out of them. \$60 is a drop in the bucket when they are selling these dogs for upwards of \$300. Make it illegal to backyard breed.

Put into place a full-on education program going through the neighborhoods explaining the benefits of fixing companion animals and educating people on the benefits of allowing their animals in their homes and not just in their backyards.

Another very important thing that needs addressing in the city and surrounding cities is the fact that the dogs and cats that are turned in daily to the shelters or abandoned on the streets often are treated this way after a family's living situation changes and the new landlord said they could not have their animal. I take calls for our

rescue every day and every day I speak to people that do not want to turn their pet into a shelter, but they are facing eviction. Let's change this. In our present economy, we no longer have the ability to have the "American Dream" of owning a home. Not when a 2 bedroom home in a middle class neighborhood goes up for sale for over \$500,000 dollars. So what happens...the landlords of rental units make all the calls and it is hurting, no it is killing our dogs and cats!

The last problem I see is pet owners' irresponsible care of their pets where training is concerned. Wouldn't it be great if Pasadena (through the community center or other agency) put together affordable trainers to help the families keep their dogs and cats in their homes. As a rescue, we help people with the first set of training, but when they need to do additional training (as all people should do) the cost is just too steep for many people.

So with all that I have said, spay and neuter is a great idea, but mandatory spay and neuter does not even begin to address the reasons for our society throwing away our beloved dogs and cats like trash. Let's look at other countries and maybe some U.S. cities and see what we can learn from them on what to do and what not to do.

I would appreciate knowing when you will be meeting again regarding this initiative and whether you will be listening to the public's point of view as you have done before.
A response to my email would be greatly appreciated.

Jo Porter

--

On behalf of the animals,
For the Love of Animals Dog & Cat Rescue

fla@flarescue.org
(626) 524-1939
PO Box 1641
Monrovia, CA 91017

<http://flarescue.org>

Jomsky, Mark

Subject:

FW: WWW COMMENT--Meeting Material. Thx.

Field	Value
Your Name	Angel L. Portillo
Phone	6264299593
Email	portillo_angel@yahoo.com
Comments	<p>Dear Mayor Bogaard, I understand there is a proposal in Pasadena's city council to make it mandatory to spay and neuter Dogs and cats. I fully support this proposal to make it mandatory that dogs and cats must be spayed or neutered. I have three small dogs who are my children and I take the utmost care of them so they may have the best life possible. I donate on a monthly basis to various animal organizations because unfortunately the majority of dogs, cats, farm animals and wildlife do not have good homes if they even have a home. I see through the many animal rescue websites the horror many unwanted dogs and cats face and live. We have an over population of dogs and cats due to breeders, backyard breeders and irresponsible people who are causing this problem to the tax payer. These are lives that should be cherished, not disposable things to torture and get rid of. Please support the legislation currently under review and coming to a vote to make it mandatory to spay and neuter dogs and cats. We need to take the steps to help animal's lives and the tax payer who is paying to house many unwanted animals and killing them if no one can adopt them. It's plain wrong and incredibly Saddening that most animals face. Best Regards, Angel L. Portillo (626) 429-9593 961 E. California Blvd. #102 Pasadena, CA 91106</p>

Email "WWW COMMENT" originally sent to bbogaard@cityofpasadena.net from CityWeb-Server@cityofpasadena.net on 10/1/2014 5:35:03 PM.

Jomsky, Mark

Subject: FW: Pasadena vet says: please pass mandatory spay/neuter legislation

From: Linnaea Scott [<mailto:linnaeascott@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Thursday, October 02, 2014 11:22 AM

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

Subject: Pasadena vet says: please pass mandatory spay/neuter legislation

Linnaea Scott, DVM

Work address:

TLC Pet Medical Center
1412 Huntington Dr.
South Pasadena, CA 91030

Home Address:

201 South Daisy Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91107
(626) 755-5652
Linnaeascott@yahoo.com

July 16, 2014

Dear Pasadena Mayor and City Council,

I am writing as both a Pasadena resident and long-time veterinarian in this area. I am writing to give my full support for the Mandatory Spay and Neuter initiative. There is no doubt, in my 12 years as a veterinarian, that the benefits of spay/neuter of our canine/feline population *absolutely outweighs* any over-hyped issues associated with lower hormone levels. At our 24-hour animal emergency hospital, I have seen countless animals with problems associated with *not* spaying/neutering: hit-by-car (searching for mates), prostatitis, testicular tumors, mammary tumors, pyometra, unwanted litters, etc. Pasadena is a city of forward-thinking legislation, and here is another opportunity to make your mark as a city. I hope you pass this needed legislation soon.

Thank you!

Linnaea Scott, DVM

Buchanan, Rita

Subject: FW: Support of Mandatory Spay/Neuter initiative

From: Linnaea Scott [<mailto:linnaeascott@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, July 16, 2014 3:42 PM

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

Subject: Support of Mandatory Spay/Neuter initiative

Linnaea Scott, DVM

Work address:

TLC

Pet Medical Center
1412 Huntington Dr.
South Pasadena, CA 91030

Home Address:

201 South Daisy Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91107
(626) 755-5652
Linnaeascott@yahoo.com

July 16, 2014

Dear Pasadena Mayor and City Council,

I am writing as both a Pasadena resident and long-time veterinarian in this area. I am writing to give my full support for the Mandatory Spay and Neuter initiative. There is no doubt, in my 12 years as a veterinarian, that the benefits of spay/neuter of our canine/feline population *absolutely outweighs* any over-hyped issues associated with lower hormone levels. I have seen countless animals with problems associated with *not* spaying/neutering: hit-by-car (searching for mates), prostatitis, testicular tumors, mammary tumors, pyometra, unwanted litters, etc. Please feel free to contact me for more specifics if you are interested. I hope you pass this needed legislation soon.

Thank you!

Linnaea Scott, DVM

Buchanan, Rita

Subject: FW: Spay and Neuter consideration

From: Michael Stolkey [<mailto:aftermarkethd@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, July 15, 2014 7:16 AM
To: Madison, Steve
Cc: Bogaard, Bill; district1; Morales, Margo; Sullivan, Noreen; De La Cuba, Vannia; Tornek, Terry
Subject: Spay and Neuter consideration

Dear Councilmember Madison,

It is very disheartening to see a continued reliance on emotion rather than facts and science when our public officials are addressing pet issues across the country. As the animal rights activists offer NO facts or science, just raw emotion and agenda driven causes (I cite the statements of the PETA representative who I believe is driving your agenda), I urge you to do your homework in your consideration of this most egregious action. First of all, here are some facts for you to consider: Spay and neutering WILL result in a 2 - 5 times increased incidence of joint disorder in dogs. Here is just one such study.

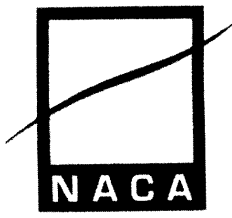
<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi/10.1371/journal.pone.0102241>

2ndly, this is illegal and is not consistent with our right of choice. Please be assured that, there are groups of us who support legal action across the country where there are now federal injunctions regarding the pet industry and our right of choice. AZ, FL, and RI currently have suits pending to, in a large part, protect our rights regarding our pets. We do not want OUR taxes in Pasadena used to fight a law suit, which is sure to follow.

To take your thought process to another level, where does this stop? Are you proposing the same for the murderers and rapists that have access to our streets? I realize this is ridiculous....but so is your suggested course of action.

Thank you,

A very concerned citizen.



NATIONAL ANIMAL
CARE & CONTROL ASSOCIATION

14 SEP 24 09:19 AM
CITY CLERK

*The National Animal Care & Control Association
is committed to setting the standard of professionalism in animal welfare
and public safety through training, networking, and advocacy.*

September 15, 2014

Bill Bogaard, Mayor
City of Pasadena- City Hall
100 North Garfield Ave
Pasadena, CA 91109

Dear Mayor Bogaard:

The National Animal Care & Control Association (NACA) is the United States largest non profit association dedicated to increasing the professionalism and training standards of the animal care and control industry. Our membership includes animal control officers and animal sheltering personnel from all fifty states.


NACA strongly supports the implementation of mandatory spaying and neutering laws to help decrease unwanted domestic animals and subsequently euthanasia at local shelters. Additionally, these laws assist in decreasing taxpayer expenses by decreasing animal intake and the costs associated for caring for animals. Reducing animal populations through spaying and neutering laws can also reduce calls for service for animal control officers and allow them to focus more time and resources on proactive enforcement.

As part of our support for spaying and neutering laws, NACA encourages local municipalities to set up low cost spay and neuter clinics to assist underprivileged residents comply with the laws.

Please see the attached fact sheet regarding common misconceptions with mandatory spaying and neutering laws.

I can be reached directly at tstosuy@nacanet.org or 831-454-7254 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Todd Stosuy, President

CC: Jacque Robinson, Vice Mayor; Margaret McAustin, Council Member
John J. Kennedy, Council Member; Gene Masuda, Council Member
Victor Gordo, Council Member; Steve Madison, Council Member
Terry Tornek, Council Member

The Benefits and Necessity of Spay/Neuter Laws

Q: What is the most effective method of controlling the number of unwanted and abandoned animals entering shelters across the country every year?

A: Prevention through spaying and neutering is the most effective method. Left unaltered, cats and dogs are prolific parents. A cat reaches sexual maturity as early as 4 months of age, with frequent heat cycles and a short gestation period. Dogs reach sexual maturity around the age of 6 months or younger, and heat cycles occur twice a year. Even if a dog or a cat has only one litter, that is one litter too many. Despite decades of education by animal-protection groups, veterinarians, and others, animals still enter our nation's shelters by the millions every year. Many owners simply do not—and will not—have their animals spayed or neutered unless the law requires it.

Q: Is there a recommended age for spay/neuter surgeries? Are there any health benefits?

A: Most animal-protection professionals and veterinarians encourage spaying and neutering *before 6 months of age*, which is not only safe but also beneficial to the individual animal as well as to the overall population. Several peer-reviewed studies have shown that pediatric spay/neuter surgeries are perfectly safe, and many organizations that deal directly with the companion-animal overpopulation crisis and educate others about it, such as the American Animal Hospital Association, the National Humane Education Society, and the Koret Shelter Medicine Program at the University of California–Davis, support early spaying and neutering as a means of addressing overpopulation, preventing animals from roaming and getting lost, and more. Sterilization also prevents diseases that occur only in intact animals, such as pyometra, mastitis, and testicular cancer.

Q: Will a spay/neuter law have an impact on the number of stray animals in a community?

A: Yes. Spaying and neutering reduces the stray population. Intact animals are more likely to roam in search of a mate. Intact males can smell a female in heat from miles away. Such intact animals often end up lost or abandoned and living on the streets. Local animal control agencies frequently receive calls about these animals when they're running at large. With a spay/neuter ordinance in place, fewer animals will be roaming the streets and thus fewer animals will be born to strays.

Q: Will a spay/neuter law raise enforcement costs? Will it be difficult for officers to enforce?

A: Not at all. Animal control officers generally enforce spay/neuter requirements while dealing with existing calls, with no increase in enforcement costs or added challenges. For example, if an officer is responding to a noise complaint about a barking dog or doing a welfare check on a neglected dog, he or she would also check for a city license and proof of rabies vaccination and could easily check the animal's reproductive status as well. Also, local shelter staff would have the authority to require guardians to have animals spayed or neutered if the animals are picked up as strays and then reclaimed, reducing the number of kittens and puppies born as well as the number of lost animals likely to be running at large and/or picked up as strays in the future.

Q: What other benefits are there to a spay/neuter law?

A: A spay/neuter law would raise awareness of responsible companion-animal ownership within the community and saves lives by decreasing the number of unwanted animals roaming the streets and/or surrendered to shelters. While it takes a few years for a community to see the full effect of a spay/neuter ordinance, many jurisdictions, such as Las Vegas, Los Angeles, and Santa Cruz County in California, have already seen shelter intake numbers decrease and spay/neuter compliance rates increase.