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July 16, 2014

Pasadena Mayor and City Council Members

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Re: Issues Related to the Proposed Mandatory Spay/Neuter Ordinance

Dear Council Members:

I want to thank you for your thoughtful consideration about the enactment of a mandatory spay/neuter ordinance for all cats and dogs over 6 months of age in the City of Pasadena. It was really good to hear a city council participate in intelligent discourse about the subject and pose valid questions to those who would be responsible for enforcing such an ordinance.

I would like to make **very clear that I am a proponent of spaying and neutering of animals.** I do not oppose sterilization of animals. However, the proposed ordinance is flawed for a number of reasons and should not be enacted until other options have been thoroughly exhausted.

Staff Report

I have read the staff report dated July 14, 2014 and I have a number of concerns about information contained in it. I see a number of “facts” asserted without any citation to sources, which leads me to question the credibility of the information. For example, on page 7, paragraph 2, it states that “One un-spayed female cat and her offspring can be responsible for the birth [sic] of 73,000 kittens in six years’ time.” I have found absolutely no credible information to support that statement, which on its face, seems unbelievable as a simple matter of mathematics. It appears to be the result of simple extrapolation of numbers based on arbitrary litter sizes without factoring in mortality due to predation, illness, trauma or other causes.

There is also a claim that there are more than 65,000 dogs and cats in Pasadena, without any citation to authority for the claim. When questioned about that figure, Elizabeth Campo from Pasadena Humane Society (“PHS”) could not satisfactorily explain the source of the figure

or its veracity, only that it was some sort of estimate. It is very troubling to me that the management of an animal control agency actually believes such shoddy, unsubstantiated information and is willing to base public policy on it.

In fact, what I have found is an article in the *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* entitled "Reproductive capacity of free-roaming domestic cats and kitten survival rate". The authors collected data over a period of six years and concluded that the mortality rates are high for neonatal and juvenile domestic cats. In one study, the authors note that up to 90% of kittens in the study died before six months of age. Their own study revealed that approximately 75% of kittens had died or disappeared before six months of age. It is unrealistic to guess at the number of kittens in an average litter and simply extrapolate that figure for a number of years. As such, it seems that the 73,000 figure is speculative at best and wildly exaggerated for shock value and has no basis in fact. Attached as Exhibit 1 is a copy of the *JAVMA* article.

Paragraph 3 on page 7 refers to scientific literature (again without citation to source) that indicates that the greatest risk factors for dog bites include intact males, females with puppies, and chained/tethered dogs. The staff report further claims that reducing the number of intact adult dogs, *especially strays and other dogs that are allowed to roam freely* would reduce the risk to public safety. In fact, none of these risk factors would be adequately addressed by the ordinance that is currently being considered.

Given the exemptions to spaying and neutering envisioned in the ordinance, there would still be no shortage of intact dogs and females with puppies that can be kept for breeding purposes specifically permitted in the proposed ordinance. More importantly, however, is staff acknowledgement that strays and other free roaming dogs are a significant risk factor. The real problem then is lack of enforcement of leash laws and other laws that require people to keep dogs contained. How will this proposed spay/neuter ordinance address those issues?

Excessive Exemptions

The rule has the potential to be swallowed by the exemptions. First and foremost is the exemption to the spay/neuter requirement by paying an additional \$60 per year for a dog license. That provision alone removes the "mandatory" part of the law and gives people a choice to simply pay more money to leave their dogs intact. In effect, it then becomes merely a license differential for altered and unaltered animals. As contemplated, it truly is an opt out provision and could be exercised by a fair number of residents. Furthermore, because of the ambiguity of the opt out provision, it is exceedingly difficult to enforce. How can a municipality enforce a law with an optional provision?

The remaining exemptions could represent a significant number of animals in part because of the vagueness of the requirements to qualify for one of the exemptions and the ease

with which a person could falsely claim that his/her dog is exempt from the spay/neuter requirement under one of the exemptions. How difficult is it to falsify documentation for a dog that a person claims is purebred or that a dog should otherwise be permitted to breed? Advertisements for “purebred” dogs are everywhere and claim that the dogs come with “papers”. Is there an accurate way to determine whether those papers are authentic? Who will verify those and how? The same problem arises with people who claim that their dogs are service or assistance dogs. Given the restrictions on what can be asked of persons with disabilities, it is very easy for people to claim that their dogs are service or assistance dogs without the ability to verify that claim. False documentation and even vests for service/assistance dogs are readily available on the internet.

Enforcement

According to the staff report the mandatory spay and neuter ordinance would be enforced when Pasadena Humane Society (“PHS”) officers check the status of cats and dogs they contact during the normal course of their work. What does that actually mean? What does it mean to “check the status”? What status? The report claims that PHS will not actively seek violators but will enforce the requirement as secondary enforcement in conjunction with violation of another law governing animal ownership obligations. What part of the law will be enforced? Will it be the requirement to alter the animal or to pay a higher license fee? It is unclear what exactly will be enforced. More importantly, however, is the next sentence which states, “The ordinance may be enforced by PHS during the second round of dog license canvassing commencing in October 2014.” That directly contradicts the claim that the ordinance will be subject to secondary enforcement.

What does *that* mean? How is that “secondary enforcement”? Riverside County Department of Animal Services (“RCDAS”) similarly claimed that the “mandatory” spay/neuter ordinance would not be enforced by itself, only in conjunction with other alleged violations. In reality what is happening is that RCDAS officers are going door to door, issuing citations alleging violations of other animal ordinances (e.g., those requiring licensing, microchipping, rabies vaccinations) as a pretext for enforcement of the spay/neuter ordinance. The Riverside County spay/neuter ordinance, which also is nothing more than a license differential, is being enforced in a manner that is inconsistent with the claim that it is subject only to secondary enforcement. It appears that this is the intent in Pasadena as well given that PHS appears to incorporate enforcement of the spay/neuter ordinance in its licensing canvassing. Which is it? Is this ordinance subject to “secondary enforcement” or will it be something to add to a list of alleged violations during canvassing? It would be very unwise to use Riverside County as a role model for anything related to animals and animal control as its current tactics have resulted in considerable legal questions and potential litigation.

The ordinance provides for a warning to animal owners in the event that they are not in compliance (a status that is not clear given the opt out provision), and gives 30 days to comply with the spay/neuter requirement. Has anyone from the City of Pasadena done any research into the wait times for spay/neuter surgeries at PHS or any other facilities? Can a person even get an appointment for the surgery within the 30 days allotted? If so, will that be possible given the increased demand if the ordinance is enacted? Has anyone from the City of Pasadena contacted local veterinarians to inquire about participating in a program of reduced fee spaying and neutering or a voucher program subsidized by the City? Many people may not be able to get to PHS, especially where they have to take public transportation, which does not allow pets to ride. How will those people obtain services? Does PHS have a mobile spay/neuter unit?

These have proven to be significant issues in other areas which have imposed a spay/neuter ordinance without considering the consequences or putting the infrastructure in place to ensure compliance. In the Coachella Valley, for example, there is only one provider of "low cost" spay/neuter services (with costs similar to those of PHS) for the entire area. It is impossible to get an appointment to have an animal spayed or neutered even within 60 days, much less 30 days. So, by definition, under the Riverside County ordinance (§6.08.120), it is impossible to comply with the ordinance where citations give 20 days to comply with the alleged violations.

To compound the matter, according to the staff report, PHS recommends that subsequent violations of the spay/neuter ordinance be enforced in accordance with §1.24.020 of the Pasadena Municipal Code which states provides for misdemeanor (criminal) penalties and states:

"Except in cases where a different punishment is prescribed by any ordinance of the city, any person convicted of a misdemeanor under the ordinances of Pasadena shall be punished by a **fine of not more than \$1,000.00** or by **imprisonment** not to exceed 6 months, or by both such fine and imprisonment."

It is hard to believe that anyone would recommend criminal penalties for something like failure to spay or neuter an animal. That is an incredibly disproportionate punishment for the "crime" of not spaying or neutering an animal! Where a person cannot comply because he/she lacks the resources to have animals spayed or neutered, penalties like this criminalize poverty. If a person is assessed a huge fine (as is currently occurring in Riverside County), how can that person possibly afford to actually obtain the spay/neuter services needed? It is shocking that PHS would even suggest such a severe punishment.

In addition to the obvious unfairness and excessiveness of the punishment proposed by PHS, there will clearly be additional costs for enforcement of a spay/neuter ordinance where criminal prosecution is part of the enforcement. However, according to the staff report, the ordinance will not have a fiscal impact on the City of Pasadena.

Lack of Affordable Spay/Neuter Options

By far the most troublesome aspect of the proposed requirement that all dogs and cats over six months be spayed or neutered is the lack of affordable options for spay/neuter services in the City of Pasadena. Page 9 of the staff report contains a table that gives the fees for PHS:

Table 7 – Current Low Cost Spay/Neuter Program Fees

	Female	Male
Cat	\$65	\$45
Dog: 0 – 40 lbs.	\$125	\$95
Dog: 41 – 100 lbs.	\$160	\$125
Dog: 101+ lbs.	\$185	\$150

Those fees are not low cost at all, especially by comparison to other jurisdictions that have free or subsidized spay/neuter options. Furthermore, these fees are not all inclusive. There are additional costs for pain medication (which should not be optional, but is not included in the fee). There are additional fees for blood work, which is recommended before any surgery, as well as unforeseen complications that arise during the spay/neuter surgery. The result is that the “low cost” option offered by PHS may not be all that low cost after all, and for many people, outright unaffordable. Does PHS or the City of Pasadena have a voucher program for low income residents to make spay/neuter more accessible to them?

When asked about cost, neither Ms. Campo nor Mr. McNall from PHS could adequately explain how a person of limited means could obtain spay/neuter services either at a low cost or free. In fact, the free spay/neuter for Pitbulls and Chihuahuas that is offered by PHS is contingent on available funding and demand. What sources of funding are available to offset costs to low income families to get their animals spayed or neutered? What subsidies, if any, are available? How can the staff report claim that there is no fiscal impact to the City of Pasadena without even considering this element?

Because PHS contracts with 9 cities in all, there are likely to be serious implications for the other cities if such an ordinance is enacted by the City of Pasadena. For example, if a dog comes into PHS from Glendale, what will be the requirement for spay/neuter if Glendale does not adopt a similar ordinance? Glendale has its own animal ordinances and has not adopted by reference those of the City of Pasadena. If an intact dog owned by a person living in Glendale is impounded as a stray, what jurisdiction does the City of Pasadena have over the dog’s reproductive status?

Education

The recurring theme from the city council meeting last night, and the one thing on which everyone seems to agree, is that education is crucial in the area of animal ownership. However, it is not being done by PHS. I believe the statement by Ms. Campo was that their education program is currently being “revamped”. I have heard variations of that statement from management of countless animal control agencies where they really do not appear to have tangible education programs at all. It is not enough to rely on passive distribution of information to people who happen to visit the PHS facility or its website. I live in the City of Pasadena and I have never seen any of the “traditional print” materials PHS claims to use as part of its public outreach. Canvassing is not likely to be a very effective means of disseminating information, although it is also cited as part of PHS public outreach. It is likely to be done during business hours when most people are at work and not available.

I have attached as Exhibit 2 copies of the PHS website sections on *Education* in their Programs section. As you can see, there really is not much offered in the way of education through PHS, despite claims to the contrary.

Humane Education Program - nothing available.

Education: Summer Workshop - no summer workshop for 2014.

Just for Kids - this section contains projects for kids to assemble with no discernible educational information.

Mobile Outreach - other than moving the information from one location to another periodically, for a couple hours, this is still a passive means of disseminating information.

Following the last city council meeting related to the proposed breed specific spay/neuter ordinance, I contacted City Manager Michael Beck to offer to develop a program to educate the public on all aspects of pet ownership, legal, behavioral, and more with the participation of others as well. Mr. Beck referred me to PHS as the agency that handles outreach for the City of Pasadena. I have spoken to community organizations about these issues and will continue to do so because I find that people are much more receptive to complying with laws when they understand the rationale behind them, not because they are told they have to do so.

The City of Pasadena should not even consider the enactment of a spay/neuter ordinance without providing the infrastructure for helping residents to comply with its provisions. The idea of a mandatory spay/neuter ordinance sounds very proactive and progressive on its face, but the reality is that it is a minefield of potential problems and will likely not provide a viable solution to the pet overpopulation issue.

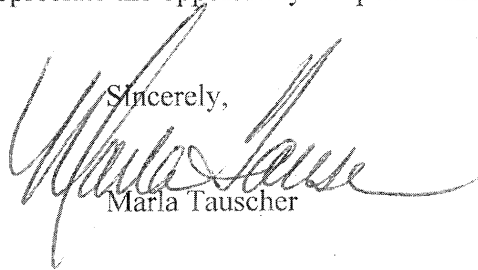
As I said at the outset, I am very much in favor of spaying and neutering animals, but I do not believe that a mandatory ordinance will have the desired effect. A number of issues are

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raised by the possibility of such an ordinance, none of which are adequately addressed, if at all, in the staff report or by the representatives of PHS during the city council meeting on Monday evening. There are more effective ways to reduce animal populations that will not disproportionately affect people of limited means and/or criminalize an inability to comply with a civil ordinance.

I would very much appreciate the opportunity to speak with you in more detail about this subject.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Marla Tauscher", written in black ink.

Marla Tauscher

Reproductive capacity of free-roaming domestic cats and kitten survival rate

Felicia B. Nutter, DVM; Jay F. Levine, DVM, MPH; Michael K. Stoskopf, DVM, PhD, DACZM

Objective—To determine reproductive capacity of naturally breeding free-roaming domestic cats and kitten survival rate.

Design—Prospective cohort and retrospective cross-sectional study.

Animals—2,332 female cats brought to a trap-neuter-return clinic for neutering and 71 female cats and 171 kittens comprising 50 litters from a cohort study of feral cats in managed colonies.

Procedure—Data collected for all cats included pregnancy, lactation, and estrus status and number of fetuses for pregnant cats. Additional data collected for feral cats in managed colonies included numbers of litters per year and kittens per litter, date of birth, kitten survival rate, and causes of death.

Results—Pregnant cats were observed in all months of the year, but the percentage of cats found to be pregnant was highest in March, April, and May. Cats produced a mean of 1.4 litters/y, with a median of 3 kittens/litter (range, 1 to 6). Overall, 127 of 169 (75%) kittens died or disappeared before 6 months of age. Trauma was the most common cause of death.

Conclusions and Clinical Relevance—Results illustrate the high reproductive capacity of free-roaming domestic cats. Realistic estimates of the reproductive capacity of female cats may be useful in assessing the effectiveness of population control strategies. (*J Am Vet Med Assoc* 2004;225:1399–1402)

The size of the free-roaming cat population in the United States is unknown, but overpopulation of free-roaming cats is considered to be an important problem because of concerns about animal welfare, wildlife predation, and zoonotic disease transmission.¹ Methods for controlling populations of free-roaming cats are controversial, in large part because of a lack of data needed to assess the various options.¹⁻³ Domestic cats are considered to be prolific breeders, with females capable of bearing their first litter before 1 year of age and able to have multiple litters each year thereafter.^{1,2} However, estimates of the reproductive

capacity of female cats and the consequences of unabated reproduction are often extrapolated beyond scientific reliability, as they typically fail to use realistic litter sizes or ignore kitten mortality rates.^{3,6} The purpose of this study was to determine reproductive parameters of naturally breeding free-roaming cats. For purposes of the present study, free-roaming cats were considered to be cats that were not confined when outdoors. Feral cats were considered to be a subset of free-roaming cats.

Materials and Methods

Data for the study were collected from 2 sources. Between May 1998 and October 2000, data were collected on 71 sexually intact female cats in 9 managed feral cat colonies in Randolph County, NC. The cats were being monitored to assess the impact of a trap-neuter-return (TNR) program on feral cat colony population dynamics. As each colony was enrolled in the population dynamics study, all cats in the colony were captured and pregnancy, lactation, and estrus statuses of the female cats were determined. Colonies were included in the study only if they had an established caretaker who provided food and water on a regular basis and either owned the land on which the colony resided or had the permission of the landowner to tend to the cats; cats in the colony had access to adequate shelter, such as a barn, storage shed, carport, basement, or crawl space; the colony consisted of at least 10 adult cats (ie, cats > 6 months old), with at least 3 adult male cats; the colony was located in a rural or suburban residential area at least 1 km from the nearest 4-lane road; and the colony caretaker agreed to random assignment of the colony to a treatment group (control vs surgical sterilization), ear-tipping of all cats for permanent identification, and regular visits to the colony by the investigators for data collection. At the time of inclusion in the study, cats in the colony were live trapped and anesthetized with an IM injection of ketamine, tiletamine, zolazepam, and xylazine.⁷ Female cats in 6 colonies (n = 44) were surgically neutered. Female cats in the remaining 3 colonies (n = 27) were not surgically neutered. All cats in all colonies were vaccinated against rhinotracheitis, panleukopenia, calicivirus infection, FeLV infection, and rabies and treated with ivermectin. Food and water were provided daily. Cats were returned to their colony sites and monitored for a 2-year follow-up period. During that time, census data were collected on the colonies at least twice weekly by the caretakers or principal investigator. Data collected included parity, birth dates, litter sizes, and outcome of kittens. Parity was estimated on the basis of whether the caretaker had observed the cat to have been pregnant, lactating, or caring for a litter previously and the reproductive status of the cat at the time of enrollment in the study. Kittens that survived to 6 months of age were trapped and enrolled in the population dynamics study but were not enrolled in the present study. Litter size data were collected on 61 litters produced by the 27 control females during the 2-year study period. Data were available on time of birth for all 61 litters, on litter-specific mortality rates for 59 litters, and on litter size for 50 litters. All cats were trapped, neutered, and vaccinated at

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Address correspondence to Dr. Stoskopf.

the end of the population dynamics study and again returned to their colony sites.

Data were also collected on a convenience sample of 2,332 free-roaming female cats trapped and brought by their caretakers to a monthly TNR clinic in Raleigh, NC,^b between February 1996 and December 2001. Information on living conditions of these cats was not available; however, data on pregnancy status (ie, identification of embryos or fetuses visible without magnification), number of fetuses per pregnancy, lactation status (ie, ability to express milk from teats), and estrus status (ie, ovarian follicle development and uterine status) were collected by veterinary technicians and assistants at the time of neutering and recorded on a standardized recording sheet. Pregnancy status was recorded for 2,281 of the 2,332 cats, and 608 cats were confirmed to be pregnant on the basis of identification of embryos or fetuses in the uterus. Fetus counts were recorded for 317 of the 608 pregnancies. Lactation status was recorded for 2,205 cats, and estrus status was recorded for 2,227.

Data from the population dynamics study were used to determine litter sizes, litters per year, kitten survival rate, and causes of death for kittens that died. Descriptive statistics were calculated, and associations between parity, litter size, kitten survival rate, and litter order (first, second, or third per year) were assessed with χ^2 tests. Commercial software^c was used for all calculations; values of $P < 0.05$ were considered significant. Distributions of fetus counts and litter sizes from live births were significantly different ($P = 0.008$; Kolmogorov-Smirnov test); thus, analyses were performed separately for each. Fetus counts and litter size were compared with the Mann-Whitney U test. Distributions of pregnancy, lactation, and estrus statuses were not significantly different between cats in the population dynamics study and cats examined in the TNR program. Therefore, data were pooled for further analysis.

Survival time for 169 kittens was evaluated by means of the Kaplan-Meier product-limit estimate of the survivor function.⁸ Observations were right-censored at the end of 6 months (180 days). Survival times were compared by parity of the queen, litter size, and litter order with the Peto and Peto generalized Wilcoxon test for k samples with censored data⁸; values of $P < 0.05$ were considered significant.

Results

Six hundred twenty-five cats in the study (608 in the TNR program and 17 in the population dynamics study) were pregnant. Pregnancies were observed in all months of the year, but the percentage of cats found to be pregnant was highest in March, April, and May and lowest in November (Figure 1). Distributions of the percentages of cats in estrus and the percentages of cats lactating had similar patterns, with the peak in percentage of cats in estrus preceding the peak in percentage of cats found to be pregnant and the peak in percentage of cats lactating following. Overall, 149 of 2,276 cats (131/2,205 cats in the TNR program and 18 of 71 cats in the population dynamics study) were reported to be lactating, and 295 of 2,298 cats (277/2,227 cats in the TNR program and 18 of 71 cats in the population dynamics study) were in estrus.

Information on fetus count was available for 317 cats in the TNR program and 17 cats in the population dynamics study (1,401 total fetuses), and information

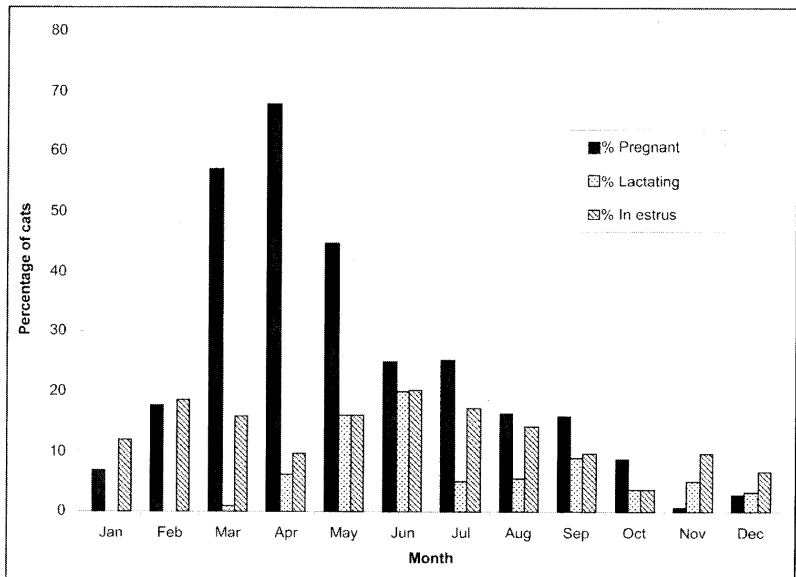


Figure 1—Percentages of free-roaming cats found to be pregnant, lactating, or in estrus as a function of month of examination. Data are based on 2,332 free-roaming female cats brought to a trap-neuter-return clinic for neutering and 71 female cats in managed feral cat colonies.

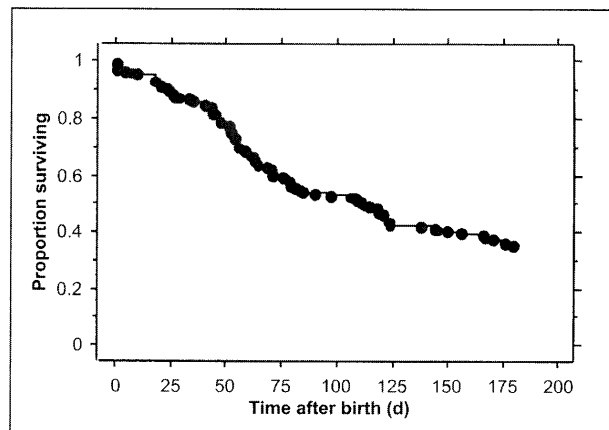


Figure 2—Kaplan-Meier survival curve for 169 kittens born to free-roaming cats. Kittens were observed for 180 days after birth.

on litter size was available for 50 litters produced by cats in the population dynamics study (171 total kittens). Fetus count (median, 4; interquartile range [25th to 75th percentile], 2 to 6; range, 1 to 10) was significantly ($P < 0.001$) higher than litter size (median, 3; interquartile range, 2 to 4; range, 1 to 6). Cats in the population dynamics study produced a mean of 1.4 litters/y, with a maximum of 3 litters/y.

Survival data were available for 169 kittens. Overall, 127 of the 169 (75%) kittens died ($n = 87$) or disappeared (40) before 6 months of age. Median litter-specific mortality rate was 75% (interquartile range, 20% to 100%; range, 0% to 100%). Kitten mortality rate was not significantly associated with maternal parity ($P = 0.19$), litter size ($P = 0.10$), or litter order ($P = 0.38$). Eighty-one of the 169 (48%) kittens died or disappeared before they were 100 days old (Figure 2). Median survival time was 113 days (10th to 90th percentile range, 24 to 180 days). Survival time was not significantly associated with maternal parity ($P = 0.12$),

litter size ($P = 0.11$), or litter order ($P = 0.58$). Causes of death were determined for 41 of the 87 (47%) kittens reported to have died. Thirty-seven of the 41 (90%) died as a result of trauma, with attacks by stray and owned dogs ($n = 18$) and motor vehicle accident (10) being the most common types of trauma. Other types of trauma that resulted in > 1 death included falls from haylofts ($n = 2$), being stepped on by horses or people (3), and a suspected episode of infanticide (3). Cause of death was not determined for 46 of the 87 (53%) kittens reported to have died, but many reportedly had signs of disease, including upper respiratory tract disease and diarrhea, prior to death.

For 10 female kittens born into control feral cat colonies, ages at which they produced their first litters were recorded. Median age at first parity was 10.5 months (interquartile range, 8 to 12 months; range, 6 to 15 months).

Discussion

Results of the present study reinforce concerns about the high reproductive capacity of free-roaming domestic cats. Although cats are considered to be seasonally polyestrous with a defined anestrus period associated with day length,^{9,10} pregnant cats were identified during all months of the year in the present study, and similar findings have been reported previously.¹¹ However, only 15 pregnancies were identified outside the spring and summer breeding season during the 6 years of the present study. This would support a hypothesis that seasonal births are dependent on optimal environmental conditions.⁴

In the present study, the proportion of pregnant cats peaked during the spring and late summer, which is consistent with reported patterns in Florida,¹² Australia,¹³ and South Africa.¹⁴ Proportions of the queen population in estrus and lactation followed similar seasonal patterns, with the percentage in estrus peaking prior to the peak in the percentage that were pregnant and the percentage lactating peaking after, as expected. The proportions of the queen population in estrus and lactation were lower than would be expected given the reported percentage that were pregnant, most likely because of the difficulty of identifying estrus and lactation, compared with identifying pregnancy. Also, estrus lasts a shorter time than either pregnancy or lactation, which would add to a bias for detecting pregnancy during monthly TNR clinics.

Reported values for mean litter sizes for free-roaming, laboratory-raised, and cattery cats vary from 2.1 to 5 kittens/litter, with ranges from 1 to 10 kittens/litter having been reported,^{11,15,22} and litter sizes in the present study were consistent with these values. Litter size was significantly smaller than fetus count in the present study, which may be an indication of late gestational or early neonatal losses that were not directly observed. Litters of kittens could not always be located immediately after birth, and kittens were typically first counted at 3 to 4 weeks of age, when they began to visit the colony feeding site. This has been the only method used by some researchers to determine litter sizes¹⁸ and, on the basis of our findings, results in conservative estimates of actual reproduction.

On average, cats in the present study gave birth to 1.4 litters/y, although 2 cats had 3 litters in a single year. Production of multiple litters a year has been negatively associated with survival of kittens in the first litter in other studies,^{23,24} but we did not find a clear association between those variables in our data. However, the 2 females that each produced 3 litters in a single year did have 100% mortality rates for at least 1 of the first 2 litters in that year. This association makes intuitive sense but requires a larger data set to appropriately interpret the relationship. Of 10 female cats born into control feral cat colonies and closely followed to determine age at first parity, 9 produced their first litters at < 1 year of age, with 1 cat giving birth at 6 months of age. This young age at first reproduction combined with the potential to produce multiple litters a year contributes to the perception of cats as prolific breeders.^{4,4}

High neonatal and juvenile mortality rates are widely reported for domestic cats. Reported percentages of kittens that die in the early neonatal period (ie, up to 6 or 8 weeks of age) range from 12.8% to 48%.^{22,25,26} In 1 study,²⁶ up to 90% of kittens died before 6 months of age. Similarly, 81 of 169 (48%) kittens in the present study had died or disappeared before they were 100 days old, and 127 (75%) had died or disappeared before they were 6 months old. Trauma accounted for the death of most kittens for which cause of death was confirmed. Causes of kitten death may be highly dependent on a variety of environmental variables, and considerable variation in these data should be expected between study sites, making generalization difficult. Variations are also likely within causes of death. For example, single or multiple stray dogs were responsible for deaths of kittens in 2 colonies in the present study, whereas a caretaker's dogs were responsible for the deaths of multiple kittens in a third colony. It is likely that both motor vehicle accidents and dog attacks were overrepresented as causes of death in the present study because the noise or graphic visual evidence associated with these causes of death is likely to draw attention. Cats that become debilitated often seek hiding places, making it less likely that cats that die of illness or disease will be identified. Predation of kittens by other animals, such as raptors, foxes, and coyotes, likely resulted in the disappearance of some kittens in the present study but was not recorded as a cause of death, likely because the carcasses were consumed. Causes of kitten death and the relative rank of contribution to the overall mortality rate were reported in a study²⁴ of farm cats in Ithaca, NY; however, relative rankings were different from rankings in the present study, likely because of differences in study design and environmental conditions of the kittens, such as human population density, road density, road proximity, and climatic conditions.

Examined out of context, our data would tend to reinforce the popular notion that kittens born to free-roaming cats live a marginal existence and that their mortality rate is unreasonably high. However, reported kitten mortality rate was consistent with reported rates for similarly sized wild carnivores,^{27,28} suggesting that the living conditions of free-roaming cats are compara-

ble to those of other wildlife. It also suggests that the assessment and management of feral cat colonies with methods developed for studying other small wild carnivores are appropriate. Results of the present study provide information needed to develop reliable estimates of the impact of reproduction by sexually intact free-roaming domestic cats in rural and suburban regions of the southeastern United States.

³Liberg O. *Predation and social behavior in a population of domestic cats: an evolutionary perspective*. PhD dissertation, Department of Animal Ecology, University of Lund, Lund, Sweden, 1981.


^bOperation Catnip Inc, Raleigh, NC.

^cStatView 5, SAS Institute Inc, Cary, NC.

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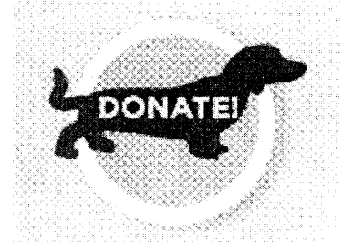
EXHIBIT 2

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REQUEST A PROGRAM

We apologize, but the selected Survey is currently unavailable.



NEWS & EVENTS

[Free Pet Adoption Day a Success!](#)

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SUMMER WORKSHOP



Thank you for your interest, but we will not be having summer workshops for 2014. Please check back Spring 2015.



NEWS & EVENTS

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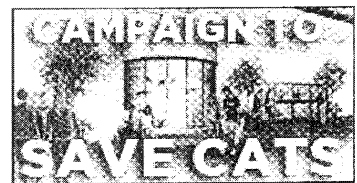
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PROJECTS JUST FOR KIDS! Where is the education?

Pet Bed

One bed earns credit for 2 hour of volunteer time.

You Need:

- * New or clean used bath towel (BATH TOWEL ONLY)
- * Batting from fabric shop the thicker the happier
- * Needle and Thread, sewing machine would be good
- * Odd yarn

Directions:

Fold the towel in half width wise. Sew up the outside edges. Cut the batting to fit the inside of the towel and insert. Sew the opening closed. Now take pieces of yarn and stitch through the entire towel and batting and tie off. Place the yarn tie-downs evenly on the pet bed. This helps the batting not to shift and bunch when being washed. You have a great easy-clean-pet bed. The homeless cats and dogs do like these.

Cat Toys

10 toys earns credit for 1 hour of volunteer time.

You Need:

- * Baby Socks (BABY SOCKS ONLY)
- * Stuffing or fiberfill
- * Dry Catnip

Directions:

Take a baby sock and fill from toe to heel with stuffing. Now add a pinch of dry catnip. Pinch the sock around the heel and ankle. Stretch the ankle and cuff and tie itself close to the heel. Done! An easy cat toy to make and cats love it.

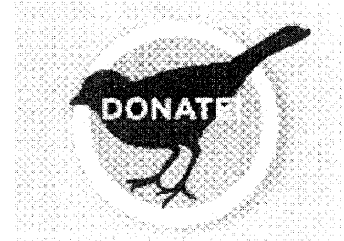
Doggie Treats

One batch earns credit for 2 hour of volunteer time.

You Need:

- * 2 1/2 cups whole wheat flour
- * 1/2 cup powdered milk
- * 1/2 tsp. salt
- * 1/2 tsp. garlic powder
- * 1/2 cup ice water
- * 6 tbsp. margarine, shortening or meat drippings
- * 1 egg beaten
- * 1 tsp. brown sugar

Directions:



NEWS & EVENTS

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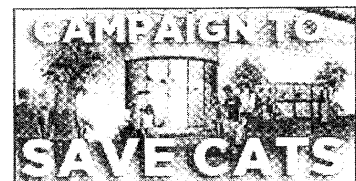
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Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine flour, milk, salt and sugar. Cut in shortening until mixture resembles cornmeal. Mix in egg. Add enough water so that the mixture forms a ball. With your fingers, pat out the dough to .5" inch thickness on a lightly oiled cookie sheets. Cut with biscuit or cookie cutter into shapes. Save the scraps and pat them out with the next batch. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes. Remove from oven and cool. Store in zip lock bag in the freezer.

Bunny Garden

You need:

- * Clean old margarine container
- * Potting soil
- * Seeds for grass, alfalfa, carrots, lettuce


Directions:

Punch a few little holes in the bottom of your container. Add you soil to ? inch of the top. Moisten the soil and let it drain. Plant your seeds into the soil. Keep this moist but do not drown. Keep in moderate indirect sun. When the seed are 2 inches or more give the planter to the bunny and start another.



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MOBILE OUTREACH


The Pasadena Humane Society's Mobile Outreach Unit is a 33-foot motor home that extends the boundaries and hours of our organization by visiting throughout the Los Angeles area and the seven cities we serve. Our "shelter on wheels" transports the Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA to shopping centers, events and festivals throughout our service cities. Known for bringing a selection of adoptable dogs and cats, the outreach unit also carries current information on our Spay/Neuter services, area wildlife and other programs and services. Our Mobile Outreach Coordinator runs the Unit on volunteer power and is always willing to go to a new location!


If you would like to have our Mobile Outreach Unit make a stop at your business or organization, [click here](#).


For answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ), [click here](#).

For photos of the mobile unit in action, [click here](#).

July 2014


[July 2, 2014](#)  **Pasadena Public Library - Hill Avenue Branch**
July 2, 2014 3:00 PM
[Event Details](#)


[July 4, 2014](#)  **Independence Day - PHS Closed**
July 4, 2014 12:00 AM
[Event Details](#)

 **Sierra Madre 4th of July Parade**
July 4, 2014 11:30 AM
[Event Details](#)

[July 5, 2014](#)  **Petco, San Gabriel**
July 5, 2014 10:00 AM
[Event Details](#)

[July 6, 2014](#)  **PCC Flea Market**
July 6, 2014 8:30 AM
[Event Details](#)

[July 10, 2014](#)  **Sierra Madre Public Library**
July 10, 2014 1:00 PM
[Event Details](#)

[July 11, 2014](#)  **Fancy Food Truck Friday**
July 11, 2014 5:00 PM



NEWS & EVENTS

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Event Details

July 12, 2014

 **Colorado Street Bridge Party**

July 12, 2014 6:00 PM

[Event Details](#)

July 13, 2014

 **Lucky 13 Black Cat Adoptions**

July 13, 2014 11:00 AM

[Event Details](#)

July 26, 2014

 **Dog Days of Summer**

July 26, 2014 5:00 PM

[Event Details](#)

 = Open  = RSVP  = Ticketed  = Recurring



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Jomsky, Mark

From: Bogaard, Bill
Sent: Friday, October 03, 2014 7:32 PM
To: Jomsky, Mark
Subject: Fwd: I Support the Spay and Neuter Ordinance

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Kerry Kuwata <kerry.kuwata1@gmail.com>
Date: October 3, 2014 at 6:31:52 PM CDT
To: <bbogaard@cityofpasadena.net>
Subject: I Support the Spay and Neuter Ordinance

Hi Mayor Bogaard,

My name is Kerry Kuwata and I'm a Pasadena resident, writing to let you know that I, as a voter, fully support the spay and neuter ordinance that's being discussed at the City Council meeting this coming Monday.

There are so many homeless animals in Pasadena, but it's a problem that can be fixed by you and your fellow City Council members. I truly hope that, this Monday, you're able to be a voice for the animals that can't speak up for themselves and need your help to pass this ordinance.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read my email.

Best,

Kerry

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Jomsky, Mark

From: CityWeb-Server@cityofpasadena.net
Sent: Saturday, October 04, 2014 6:59 PM
To: Jomsky, Mark
Subject: WWW COMMENT

Data from form "Contact City Clerk Mark Jomsky" was received on 10/4/2014 6:58:31 PM.

Send Comments

Field	Value
Your Name	M Haney
Phone	760 788-0449
Email	mhaneyranch@yahoo.com
Comments	<p>Not sure what dept. to contact, still doing research, but heard Pasadena City looking at making spay/neuter mandatory for 100% of all dogs (& cats?) before release from impound even if owner holds a valid intact animal permit. My concern is that someone traveling THROUGH Pasadena with a dog that is involved in any kind of accident necessitating hospitalization will have his dog impounded and involuntary surgically altered, violating the rights of those who do not live in Pasadena. I love visiting (and spending money in) Pasadena but will avoid doing so in the future so as not to risk surgical harm to my intact animals and to avoid spending money in a city that takes it upon themselves to alter 100% of impounded animals in disrespect of an intact-animal permit or the rights of animal owners to make that decision for themselves. This imperialistic attitude may work for the uneducated, impoverished, lazy masses who should but fail to alter their animals but for persons who choose to not alter their animals for purposes of conformation shows, breed improvement, etc. I cannot tolerate the arrogance of the Pasadena City Council to consider such an action and will avoid spending any money towards the benefit of a city that would treat animal owners with such deliberate disregard.</p>

Email "WWW COMMENT" originally sent to mjomsky@cityofpasadena.net from CityWeb-Server@cityofpasadena.net on 10/4/2014 6:58:31 PM.

10/06/2014
Item 6

Jomsky, Mark

From: Bogaard, Bill
Sent: Friday, October 03, 2014 7:34 PM
To: Jomsky, Mark
Subject: Fwd: Spay/ Neutering

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Patti williams <patti_cacka@yahoo.com>
Date: October 3, 2014 at 5:27:39 PM CDT
To: "bbogaard@cityofpasadena.net" <bbogaard@cityofpasadena.net>
Subject: Spay/ Neutering
Reply-To: Patti williams <patti_cacka@yahoo.com>

The require for Spay/Neutering do not spot the unlicensed dog for running the streets and STILL having puppies.

The responsible pet owner is Spaying or Neutering. The back yard breed will still breed dogs sell not spayed or neutered.

Law DO NOT help this problem Education helps more.

Thank You
Patti Cacka-Williams
I do Miniature Pinscher Rescue

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Buchanan, Rita

Subject: FW: Please oppose this matter

From: Rose [mailto:rosehanson22@yahoo.com]

Sent: Friday, October 03, 2014 1:52 PM

To: Morales, Margo

Subject: Re: Please oppose this matter

Hi! I don't live in Pasadena, but I feel that if something is not done this will spread to all surrounding Cities.
My address Is 10421 Penrose st
Sun Valley Ca. 91352
Thank you Again!

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 3, 2014, at 1:38 PM, "Morales, Margo" <mlmorales@cityofpasadena.net> wrote:

Thank you for your e-mail. Please provide your address.

Margo Morales

District 2 Field Representative

(626) 744-4742

(626) 744-3814 fax

To Join Our Mailing list go to www.cityofpasadena.net/district2

From: Rose [mailto:rosehanson22@yahoo.com]

Sent: Friday, October 03, 2014 1:37 PM

To: Morales, Margo

Subject: Please oppose this matter

"Mandatory Spay and Neuter"


This will not work well and it only punishes breeders and responsible pet owners.


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 ignoring animal control laws entirely, or relinquishing their pets to the public shelter to be cared for at the taxpayers' expense rather than to 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.


Thank you for your Time!
Rose Hanson.

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Event Details

July 12, 2014  **Colorado Street Bridge Party**
July 12, 2014 6:00 PM
[Event Details](#)

July 13, 2014  **Lucky 13 Black Cat Adoptions**
July 13, 2014 11:00 AM
[Event Details](#)

July 26, 2014  **Dog Days of Summer**
July 26, 2014 5:00 PM
[Event Details](#)

 = Open  = RSVP  = Ticketed  = Recurring



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Jomsky, Mark

From: Morales, Margo
Sent: Monday, October 06, 2014 2:06 PM
To: 'Mary Visser'
Cc: McAustin, Margaret; Jomsky, Mark
Subject: RE: Mandatory spay and neuter shows prejudice against low income families, MSN does not work

McAustin, Margaret <mmcaustin@cityofpasadena.net>
Margo Morales
District 2 Field Representative
(626) 744-4742
(626) 744-3814 fax
To Join Our Mailing list go to www.cityofpasadena.net/district2

From: Mary Visser [mailto:vhm301@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 04, 2014 7:53 AM
To: Morales, Margo
Subject: Mandatory spay and neuter shows prejudice against low income families, MSN does not work

According to the report, it did NOT recommend increasing penalties for failure to spay or neuter, and goes on to describe:

"While finding people to adopt dogs and cats is crucial, reducing the supply of incoming animals is the only way to end the pet overpopulation problem. The stakeholder group discusses the pros and cons of changing state laws to increase fines and penalties for not altering pets. However, compelling evidence exists to show demand for affordable spay/neuter services is high, particularly in underserved areas. Failure to spay or neuter is more correlated with limited access to affordable and proximate services than it is with resistance to sterilizing pets. Efforts to increase resources and outreach in communities where spay/neuter rates are low should be the focus."

This is outstanding news that finally HSUS is on board with a proven, targeted outreach approach vs trying to mandate sterilization on those who cannot afford it.

http://btoellner.typepad.com/kcdogblog/mandatory_spayneuter/

It seems like seldom a day goes by that I don't come across a conversation somewhere via social media of someone promoting the idea that we should make spaying & neutering your pets mandatory.

I get the logic, and the desire for it. I know many shelters are struggling with the number of animals that come into their shelters. I realize that it logically makes sense that if you mandate spay/neuter, you can stop the number of unwanted litters and thus lower shelter populations.

Unfortunately, it doesn't work that way. By far the most common reason people don't alter their pets currently is because of cost or lack of access to low cost spay/neuter services. Making spay/neuter mandatory doesn't change this. In fact, it often makes the situation worse, because by the time the law gets involved, the pet owners is often looking at a \$500 fine (or more) that they can't afford, on top of the surgery cost they couldn't afford.

The end result is almost always that animals with homes are forced into the shelter system because the law made their owners now longer able to afford them. Instead of HELPING owners to overcome obstacles -- like has been successfully done with low cost spay/neuter and target outreach programs

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Item 6

across the nation -- mandatory spay/neuter laws are a punitive approach that actually punish people for being poor.

It's an ideal that has failed repeatedly in actual practice -- so much so that respected national organizations now almost unanimously oppose mandatory spay/neuter (MSN) laws. So why, in spite of so much respected opposition, do some people still hold onto the idea that it just might work for them?

I think part of it is because I don't think people realize just how diverse, and consistent the opposition to mandatory spay/neuter laws is. So, today, I wanted to provide the position statements for many of the national organizations on MSN, and why they oppose the idea. Keep in mind that what many of these organizations are best at is disagreeing with each other -- yet, on this topic, they universally agree.

So with that, I'm providing some quotes from these organization's MSN policies -- with links to the full policies online when available. Many of these statements contain a lot more info at the links and are worth checking out. Some things are bolded for emphasis by me.

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)

“The ASPCA does not support mandatory spay/neuter laws, however, based on currently available scientific information, the ASPCA strongly supports spay/neuter as an effective means to reduce companion animal overpopulation. In particular, the ASPCA supports voluntary, affordable spay/neuter programs for owned pets, Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) programs for feral cats.”

<http://www.aspca.org/nyc/mobile-spay-neuter-clinic/position-statement-on-mandatory-spayneuter-laws>

Editor's note: The ASPCA write-up is particularly well documented, with more than a dozen citations, and well worth the read.

Best Friends Animal Society

“One of the goals of the city council should be to providing for public safety, in the most effective and comprehensive way possible. Everyone benefits from a safe society – both people and pets. Communities should be protecting against any dangerous dog, no matter the breed. Because breed discrimination fails to enhance public safety, Best Friends Animal Society opposes any breed “specific” of discriminatory measures, including mandatory sterilization for certain breeds.”

Letter submitted from Best Friends Animal Society, 2013

No Kill Advocacy Center

“Studies show that the **primary reasons people do not sterilize their pets are cost and lack of access to spay/neuter services**. The same is true for licensing. The higher the cost, the lower the rate of compliance. As a result, **lower-income households with animals, those who are unaware of these laws and truly irresponsible people will not comply in significant numbers**...furthermore, legislation may be worded so that the result of non-compliance is the impoundment... of the animal.”

<http://www.nokilladvocacycenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/mandatorylaws.pdf>

Editor's Note: This writeup, "The Dark Side to Mandatory Laws" covers a lot of ground in terms of the impact of many different types of mandatory pet ownership laws and the impact they have on the ability for owners to keep their pets.

American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

“The AVMA does not support regulations or legislation mandating the spay/neuter of privately owned, non-shelter dogs and cats. Although spaying and neutering helps control dog and cat populations, mandatory approaches may contribute to pet owners avoiding licensing, rabies vaccination and veterinary care for pets and may have unintended consequences.

“Although spay/neuter is an important part of effective population control programs, and may benefit individual dogs and cats if performed at the appropriate time, **whether and when to spay/neuter specific animals requires the application of science and professional judgment to ensure the best outcome for veterinary patients and owners.**”

<https://www.avma.org/News/JAVMANews/Pages/090515j.aspx>

Editor's Note: For more details on the potential health impacts, [begin reading here.](#)

American College of Theriogenologists (ACT) & Society for Theriogenology (SFT)

“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 ovaries and testes) is not in the best interest of the health or well-being of pets or their owners”

<http://www.theriogenology.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=59>

California Sheltering White Paper

“While finding people to adopt dogs and cats is crucial, reducing the supply of incoming animals is the only way to end the pet overpopulation problem. The stakeholder group discusses the pros and cons of changing state laws to increase fines and penalties for not altering pets. However, compelling evidence exists to show demand for affordable spay/neuter services is high, particularly in underserved areas. **Failure to spay or neuter is more correlated with limited access to affordable and proximate services than it is with resistance to sterilizing pets.** Efforts to increase resources and outreach in communities where spay/neuter rates are low should be the focus.”

<http://www.cashelteringreport.org/whitepaper/>

The American Kennel Club

Mandatory spay/neuter laws greatly increase the work load of animal control offices, many of which are already strained financially. Animal control offices also find they are euthanizing more animals at taxpayer's expense because some owners choose to leave their animals at the shelter rather than complying with the law. A mandatory spay/neuter law also communicates the message that the municipality is not "dog friendly.”

https://images.akc.org/pdf/canine_legislation/toolbox_msn.pdf

Jomsky, Mark

Subject: RE: proposed Spay/Neuter ordinance

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

From: Pam Green [mailto:pamgreen@cal.net]

Sent: Saturday, October 04, 2014 5:35 PM

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

Subject: proposed Spay/Neuter ordinance

Instead how about offering FREE license to every dog who earns a Canine Good Citizen certificate ? maybe 3 year FREE license and then dog has to pass test again for next 3 years ? CGC test requires some basic training of dog, reasonably sound temperament in dog, thought and effort from owner. Those who go to this effort are unlikely to cause trouble in community whether or not dog is altered.

Also microchip every dog at time of first licensing. That way you will know which dogs that are picked up are the troublemakers and you will know who is the owner registered to that chip. think of microchip as VIN plus DMV registration for dogs. Most people don't let their dogs become problems. let's identify those owners who do create problems

If you don't require microchip at time of first license (or earlier, ie at time of sale by breeder or store or whomever), then at least microchip at time of first impound, ie time of redemption or adoption. then the repeat offenders become identifiable.

as for immediate alteration of any intact dog found loose at large, you've got Constitutional problems unless the owner is allowed to present an affirmative defense that this occurred without fault of owner, other member of owner's family, employee or agent (the gardener leaving gate open being the classic eg ; dog should have been kept indoors on gardener day). things do happen that are not owner's fault : eg car crashes fence, tree limb falls and crashes fence, dog thrown from car during crash --- all these eggs have happened to people I know). so you must allow a defense, at least for first time. second time , maybe you don't need to allow defense.

require shops that sell dogs and cats to spay/neuter and vaccinate for Rabies prior to sale. that takes a lot of the profit out of it, raises the age and minimizes the "irresistibly cute" impulse buys. unfortunately Internet sales are more of a problem than pet stores and local backyard breeders.

by the way the best breeders keep their dogs in their own home, not out in any kennel. litters are raised in the home (with outdoor time in the home's yard of course), not in a kennel. so specifying what a kennel must be is really relevant only to those who have too many dogs to keep in the house. if the house is good enough for the humans, it's good enough for the dogs.

I am not a resident of Pasadena. I am not a dog or cat breeder. I rescue dogs and foster them and very carefully adopt them out to responsible and loving homes. The Hayden Act mandate that shelters must spay/neuter prior to letting adopter take dog/cat home and that rescuers must do likewise is

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something I advocated for years before it was passed and something I have always practiced in my own adoption policy.

Pam Green

(530) 756-2997 (Please phone only between 10 am and 5:00 pm , California time, unless it is an emergency.) If you need to contact me quickly, use the phone rather than e-mail.

My list posts may be re-posted or forwarded as needed to assist in rescuing dogs, finding homes for dogs, helping people with dog problems.

For Bouvier info and humor, visit Crazy Pam's Bouvsite at
<<http://webpace.cal.net/~pamgreen>>

I am now Northern California district director for the Southern California Bouvier des Flandres Club Rescue program. The SCBDFC Rescue Coordinator is Judy Kasper <addmbouv@yahoo.com>, (951) 780-0419. The club website is <www.scbdfc.com>

Jomsky, Mark

Subject: RE: against spay/neuter ordinance

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

From: Eileen & Dan [<mailto:goddogg@verizon.net>]

Sent: Saturday, October 04, 2014 9:13 AM

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

Subject: against spay/neuter ordinance

I am one of thousands of individuals who personally rescue dogs and find them homes. In 30 years of rescue, I have come to realize that good breeders are an integral part of keeping dogs out of rescue situations. A good breeder keeps track of all the dogs they produce. They will take any dog back regardless of age. They are meticulous about the buyers of their puppies. They don't always have enough dogs or property to demand a kennel license. They may not breed frequently.

The proposed ordinance is unreasonable. The ultimate consequence would be no pet dogs over time. I have come to appreciate good breeders and their dedication to their dogs. The proposed ordinance will not allow responsible breeders in Pasadena.

Eileen L. Haworth

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Jomsky, Mark

Subject: RE: Please oppose Mandatory Spay Neuter

From: C M [<mailto:fastdogs5@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Saturday, October 04, 2014 10:17 AM

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

Subject: Please oppose Mandatory Spay Neuter

Please oppose mandatory spay neuter in Pasadena. This does not address the problems of pet overpopulation. It is also in direct conflict with life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Please consider that reputable and responsible breeders actually take back their dogs, they rescue their breed from shelters, and they screen carefully where their dogs or cats are going. I also believe they will be the most affected by this proposed regulation. The ones who are causing the problems will be LEAST affected because they don't care and never will. You cannot legislate morality no matter what the stakes. It does not work! You simply will be punishing the good to try and punish the bad.

Thanks for your consideration,
Corrine Miller
Middleton, Idaho

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Jomsky, Mark

Subject: RE: Please vote NO on Mandatory Spay/Neuter

From: Dayle Sullivan [<mailto:sullivan.dayle@sbcglobal.net>]

Sent: Sunday, October 05, 2014 3:04 PM

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

Subject: Please vote NO on Mandatory Spay/Neuter

In ineffective overly-simple solution to a complex problem, that creates more problems than it solves.

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.

The staff report provided in Item 6 of the agenda also contains many statements that are problematic.

- **The staff report is disingenuous with regard to the positions of AVMA and CVMA on mandatory spay/neuter.** The AVMA specifically OPPOSES mandatory spay/neuter of owned animals and CVMA's position on early spay/neuter does not specifically address mandating sterilization. When mandatory sterilization was debated statewide with AB 1634 (2007-08) CVMA initially supported the legislation but was forced to withdraw their support of this legislation and take a neutral position after many of their members objected.
- The staff report proposes setting license fees so that an intact license is \$60 more than a license for a sterilized animal. California State law requires that a license for an intact dog be at least twice as much as a license for a sterilized dog. While \$60 is still high relative to the other cities, the question should be whether it is effective. Higher license fees often lead to lower compliance and several communities have seen significant drops in intact licenses when fees are raised dramatically.
- It is unclear how efficacy of the fee will be determined. A decrease in intact licenses is not helpful as it may indicate non-renewal of the licenses for intact pets.
- Plans for a public education campaign seem comprehensive but it is unclear if they are relying on free media and if the outreach will be conducted in various languages to serve the diverse population of the city. The mobile unit for education is nice but could it not be utilized to provide transportation to low cost spay/neuter clinics for those residents who do not have cars? Access is a significant barrier to spay/neuter in low income communities. Nothing in this report or the ordinance addresses the cost of spay/neuter services or transportation concerns.
- **Mandatory spay/neuter policies have NEVER resulted in higher licensing compliance, lower shelter populations, or decreased costs.** The projected 58% increase in revenue is completely without basis and does not seem likely considering past statistics.

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 ignoring animal control laws entirely, or relinquishing their pets to the public shelter to be cared for at the taxpayers' expense rather than to 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.



October 6, 2014

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

**Re: CaRPOC Opposes Proposed Mandatory Spay/Neuter Ordinance
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PASADENA ADDING CHAPTER 6.09 TO TITLE 6 OF
THE PASADENA MUNICIPAL CODE REQUIRING ALL DOGS AND CATS WITHIN THE CITY TO
BE SPAYED OR NEUTERED**

Dear Mayor Bogaard & Honorable Council Members:

California Responsible Pet Owners' Coalition/CaRPOC is writing to you on behalf of Pasadena's ethical, responsible dog owners and breeders. We are writing to express our **OPPOSITION** to the proposed ordinance requiring all dogs and cats within the City of Pasadena to be spayed or neutered, adding to Chapter 6.09 Title 6 of Pasadena's Municipal Code.

- **Need & Model.**

According to Pasadena Humane Society's own canvassing and statistical data, 87% of Pasadena's canine population has already been spayed or neutered. Based on that, we must ask whether the aggressiveness of the proposed ordinance is appropriate or warranted to address the remaining 13%? Is Pasadena attempting to be a zero population municipality? A MUCH more appropriate model for Pasadena to have used for any proposed ordinance would have been Calgary, Alberta, Canada, which is considerably more similar to Pasadena than either Riverside or Los Angeles. Calgary has an extremely effective and successful animal control ordinance with high compliance rates, provides value for their license fees, takes an educational approach to their issues, and does not have an adversarial relationship with their pet-owning and breeding residents. The Pasadena Humane Society has only recently started doing community outreach, so there hasn't yet been adequate time to evaluate those efforts. Time should be provided to determine the results of those endeavors before proverbially "dropping the axe."

- **Problems with Proposed Ordinance.**

- **Exemptions.** Section 6.09.101 (b)(4)

In the nearby City of Los Angeles, exemptions in their ordinance have repeatedly been whittled down not because of owner abuse, but because of administrative resentment by agency staff. This has also happened elsewhere and could just as easily occur in Pasadena.

- **Misuse/Misapplication of Codes of Ethics/Codes of Conduct with regard to Genetic Defects.** Section 6.09.101 (b)(4)(c)

The question of what constitutes a genetic defect can be highly subjective. Breed clubs, their consulting scientists and researchers often dispute new studies versus old for years without reaching
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consensus. These internal breed club documents were neither designed nor intended for use as municipal regulatory references.

- **Licenses.** Section 6.09.030

License revocation should not be complaint-driven -- it is simply too easy to be misused. Citation-driven would be more substantive and appropriate. Also, the gravity of violations needs to be considered, as not all violations carry equal weight.

Section (a)(3) is overly broad and open-ended with no statute of limitations.

Section (a)(5) is without context even with the option of a hearing.

- **Impoundment and Sterilization.** Section 6.09.050

As written, any impoundment will lead to sterilization. This is unreasonable. Realistically, we live in earthquake country where walls can tumble, where gardeners, meter readers, delivery people, workers et al may carelessly forget to close a gate. More appropriate would be a Three Strikes system, with two warning notices prior to sterilization.

- **Lot Size and Kennels.** Section 6.09.060

As written, given standard urban lot size, and even including the occasional larger property, considering the relevant municipal code sections, it will be impossible for an average responsible Pasadena dog breeder to ever be able to legally comply with the thousand-foot (1,000') kennel proximity requirement.

- **Fairness.**

We realize that this is a draft ordinance, but this is full of ambiguities and overly punitive sections. People genuinely want to be able to comply with local laws and ordinances, but those ordinances need to be reasonable, fair and appropriate for their citizenry.

- **Health**

There are three very recent studies documenting the adverse consequences and effects of juvenile spay and neuter. These concerns extrapolate across all recognized breeds and also to mixed-breed dogs. [Underlined emphasis mine]

- 1) **"Evaluation of the risk and age of onset of cancer and behavioral disorders in gonadectomized Vizslas" 2.1.14**

<http://avmajournals.avma.org/doi/abs/10.2460/javma.244.3.309>

"Results—Dogs gonadectomized at ≤ 6 months, between 7 and 12 months, or at > 12 months of age had significantly increased odds of developing mast cell cancer, lymphoma, all other cancers, all cancers combined, and fear of storms, compared with the odds for sexually intact dogs. Females gonadectomized at ≤ 12 months of age and males and females gonadectomized at > 12 months of age had significantly increased odds of developing hemangiosarcoma, compared with the odds for sexually intact dogs. Dogs gonadectomized at ≤ 6 months of age had significantly increased odds of developing a behavioral disorder. The younger the age at gonadectomy, the earlier the mean age at diagnosis of mast cell cancer, cancers other than mast cell, hemangiosarcoma, lymphoma, all cancers combined, a behavioral disorder, or fear of storms."

- 2) **"Neutering Dogs: Effects on Joint Disorders and Cancers in Golden Retrievers" 2.13.13**

<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0055937>

"For all five diseases analyzed in the present study, the disease rates in males and/or females were significantly increased when neutering was performed early and/or late. When a disease occurred in intact dogs, the occurrence was typically one-fourth to one-half that of early- and/or late-neutered dogs. When no intact dogs were diagnosed with a disease, such as with CCL in both sexes and MCT in females, the occurrence in early- and/or late-neutered dogs ranged between 4 and 8 percent of the sample."

- 3) **"Long-Term Health Effects of Neutering Dogs: Comparison of Labrador Retrievers with Golden Retrievers" 7.14.14**

<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0102241>

“Abstract: Our recent study on the effects of neutering (including spaying) in Golden Retrievers in markedly increasing the incidence of two joint disorders and three cancers prompted this study and a comparison of Golden and Labrador Retrievers. Veterinary hospital records were examined over a 13-year period for the effects of neutering 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, cranial cruciate ligament tear and elbow dysplasia. The cancers examined were lymphosarcoma, hemangiosarcoma, mast cell tumor, and mammary cancer. The results for the Golden Retriever were similar to the previous study, but there were notable differences between breeds. In Labrador Retrievers, where about 5 percent of gonadally intact males and females had one or more joint disorders, neutering at <6 mo. doubled the incidence of one or more joint disorders in both sexes. In male and female Golden Retrievers, with the same 5 percent rate of joint disorders in intact dogs, neutering at <6 mo. increased the incidence of a joint disorder to 4–5 times that of intact dogs. The incidence of one or more cancers in female Labrador Retrievers increased slightly above the 3 percent level of intact females with neutering. In contrast, in female Golden Retrievers, with the same 3 percent rate of one or more cancers in intact females, neutering at all periods through 8 years of age increased the rate of at least one of the cancers by 3–4 times. In male Golden and Labrador Retrievers neutering had relatively minor effects in increasing the occurrence of cancers. Comparisons of cancers in the two breeds suggest that the occurrence of cancers in female Golden Retrievers is a reflection of particular vulnerability to gonadal hormone removal.”

- **Misconceptions Regarding Mandatory Spay and Neutering.**

Unfortunately, Staff was either misled, misread or misunderstood, and ultimately misrepresented the positions of both the AVMA (<https://www.avma.org/KB/Policies/Pages/Dog-And-Cat-Population-Control.aspx>) and the CVMA (http://www.cvma.net/4DCGI/cms/review.html?Action=CMS_Document&DocID=691&MenuKey=7). “There is universal opposition to mandatory spay/neuter laws among national animal-welfare organizations who have spent time to empirically study such laws' effects. Indeed, given the frequent hostility between national animal-welfare organizations, the universal opposition to mandatory spay/neuter laws is telling. The organizations in opposition to such laws include: the American Veterinary Medical Association (<http://www.avma.org/onlnews/javma/may09/090515j.asp>), the ASPCA, Alley Cat Allies, the No Kill Advocacy Center (<http://www.nokilladvocacycenter.org/pdf/mandatorylaws.pdf>), Pet Connection (<http://www.petconnection.com/blog/2010/08/24/mandatory-spayneuter-sacrificing-animal-lives-to-ideology/>), both the American College of Theriogenologists & the Society for Theriogenology (which are the two groups of veterinarian specialists in spaying & neutering (<http://www.theriogenology.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=59>), & the Anti-Cruelty Society (http://www.anticruelty.org/site/epage/69344_576.htm), among many, many others.” Canine Companions for Independence has also consistently opposed MSN ordinances.

In summary, from the ASPCA’s Position Statement on Breed-Specific Legislation, “Often, such laws are responses to a particularly violent individual dog attack.” This is exactly what happened when Councilman Madison was alarmed by a local incident and initially sought a breed-specific ordinance for Pasadena. The report goes on to state, “The ASPCA instead favors effective enforcement of a combination of breed-neutral laws that hold reckless guardians accountable for their dogs’ aggressive behavior.” That includes:

- “Enhanced enforcement of dog licenses laws with adequate fees to augment animal control budgets and surcharges on ownership of unaltered dogs to help fund low-cost pet sterilization programs.
- “Laws that mandate the sterilization of shelter animals, ideally before adoption, and make low-cost sterilization services widely available.
- “Enhanced enforcement of leash/dog-at-large laws, with adequate penalties to ensure that the laws are taken seriously and to augment animal control funding.

- “Dangerous dog laws that are breed-neutral and focus on the behavior of the individual guardian and dog with graduated penalties according to the seriousness of the dog’s behavior.”

- “Laws that hold guardians financially accountable for a failure to adhere to the animal control laws.

-“Laws that prohibit chaining or tethering.”

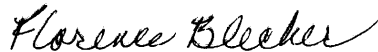
“In summary, the ASPCA advocates the implementation of a community dog bite prevention program encompassing media and educational outreach in conjunction with the enactment and vigorous enforcement of breed-neutral laws that focus on the irresponsible and dangerous behavior of individual guardians and their dogs.” These are exactly the type of laws that are effective in Calgary, Alberta, Canada and that could be equally successful in Pasadena.

Local, ethical dog breeders are assets to their communities. They have a strong, personal stake in raising and producing healthy, well-socialized, stable pets. They also serve as an ongoing resource to their puppy buyers and their community for the life of the pet and beyond. Burdensome regulations like this draft ordinance drive them out of their homes to the detriment of their community.

We at CaRPOC hope that the honorable Mayor and City Council people of the City of Pasadena will carefully review what we have written and will NOT endorse the proposed ordinance.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Florence Blecher
President
California Responsible Pet Owner' Coalition

Cc: Members of the Pasadena City Council
The American Kennel Club

California Responsible Pet Owners' Coalition/CaRPOC was founded by a group of like-minded animal lovers. Our founding supporters include pet owners, rescue volunteers, working dog owners, service and therapy animal owners and clients, trainers, veterinarians, as well as show cat and dog breeders and enthusiasts. Our goals include supporting reasonable animal legislation in the State of California.

- “Every No Kill community in America does *not* have a mandatory spay/neuter law.
- “There is no evidence whatsoever that a mandatory spay/neuter law would increase public safety or decrease dog-fighting. Indeed, the opposite is true with regard to rabies and public health... In addition, because we know that mandatory spay/neuter laws do not increase spay/neuter compliance rates, we can logically conclude that they will have no impact on dog bites either (even assuming that dog bites are correlated with lack of spay/neuter). In fact, the most preeminent national expert on dog bites and dog-caused deaths concludes that dog-caused deaths are nearly always caused by unsocialized, "backyard" dogs who have never been cared for, loved, or treated responsibly by a loving owner. There is absolutely no logic or evidence to suggest that such an irresponsible owner would be swayed by a fee or fine; again, the empirical evidence demonstrates that the opposite is true: the laws don't change irresponsible behavior.”
- “Mandatory spay/neuter laws unfairly target the poor. It has been empirically proven that the lack of financial resources is the primary reason for the failure to alter pets by the small percentage of remaining unaltered-pet homeowners... Such laws pit poor pet owners in an adversarial relationship with law-enforcement officers, dramatically increasing tensions in poor communities.”

Jomsky, Mark

Subject: RE: Opposing Pet Sterilization Legislation

From: vizkid1@cox.net [mailto:vizkid1@cox.net]

Sent: Sunday, October 05, 2014 12:08 AM

To: Morales, Margo

Subject: Opposing Pet Sterilization Legislation

I am contacting you to voice opposition to the legislation requiring sterilization of essentially all dogs in the city. This is shortsighted and brings responsible pet owners under onerous draconian law because of the actions of people who flaunt the law and have no concern for animals in their care.

I hope you carefully consider the many other options that are available. Pasadena has a vibrant pet owner population that should not be shouted down by extreme anti-pet groups like PETA and others like them

Sincerely
Kita Morris

Sent from Windows Mail

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Jomsky, Mark

Subject: RE: Mandatory Spay/Neuter

From: cory and lynn [<mailto:corylyn@bresnan.net>]

Sent: Sunday, October 05, 2014 9:36 AM

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

Subject: Mandatory Spay/Neuter

PLEASE VOTE NO on the Mandatory Spay/Neuter Program!!!!!!

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 ignoring animal control laws entirely, or relinquishing their pets to the public shelter to be cared for at the taxpayers' expense rather than to 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.

I support the AKC's position on this.

Thank You for your consideration
Catherine Lynn Kitch

"Dogs are our link to paradise. They don't know evil or jealousy or discontent. To sit with a dog on a hillside on a glorious afternoon is to be back in Eden, where doing nothing was not boring--it was peace."

- **Milan Kundera**

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Jomsky, Mark

Subject: RE: Letter of Opposition to Pasadena Proposed MSN ordinance

From: cchick@gmail.com [<mailto:cchick@gmail.com>] **On Behalf Of** Cindy Chick

Sent: Sunday, October 05, 2014 9:28 PM

To: from: florence blecher; Bogaard, Bill; district1; Morales, Margo; West, Jana; Sullivan, Noreen; De La Cuba, Vannia; Madison, Steve; Tornek, Terry; cc: Sprouse Sarah; Goffe Sheila; Powers Tom & Lani & Lani

Subject: Letter of Opposition to Pasadena Proposed MSN ordinance

Cindy Chick

2154 Woodlyn Road

Pasadena, CA 91104

October 5, 2014

AGAINST Mandatory Spay/Neuter Ordinance

The goals of the ordinance will not be realized.

- According to statistics provided by the PHS, adoptable dogs at the PHS are already being placed, and the majority of dogs in the City of Pasadena are already spayed/neutered.
- There is no evidence that spaying/neutering will reduce dog aggression or reduce the number of dog bites in the City of Pasadena
- Spaying/neutering will not reduce the number of roaming dogs. Loose dogs are a result of irresponsible dog owners who do not restrain their dogs as required by existing law.

The ordinance is unnecessary in the City of Pasadena.

- 87% of Pasadena's licensed canine population has already been spayed/neutered.
- PHS statistics show that very few adoptable dogs are euthanized.
- There's a shortage of adoptable dogs at PHS.

The ordinance will be ineffective and difficult to enforce.

- There is not adequate manpower to enforce the ordinance.
- There will be an inevitable and predictable reduction in licensing compliance and the potential for a corresponding reduction in rabies vaccinations.

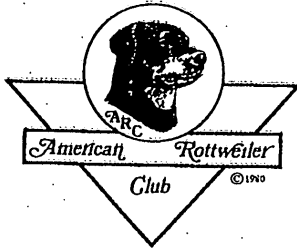
The ordinance is harmful to the health of dogs. *

- The ordinance dictates spaying/neutering of dogs before their full growth is achieved.
- Early spay/neuter (prior to 2 years of age) has been shown to increase the risk of certain cancers and musculoskeletal problems.

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- Discounted spay/neuter is available, but there are no subsidies for the resulting health problems that may surface many years later. These dogs may be surrendered when their owners can't afford their care.
- Decisions affecting the health of our dogs are no longer in control of their owners.

*References regarding health effects of early spay/neuter are available upon request. Most have already been provided from other sources. Also refer to Dr. Bleifer's testimony at previous hearing.



American Rottweiler Club, Inc.

October 4, 2014

The Honorable Mayor Bill Bogaard and City Council Members
100 N Garfield Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91109

Emails: bbogaard@cityofpasadena.net, district1@cityofpasadena.net, mlmorales@cityofpasadena.net,
jwest@cityofpasadena.net, nsullivan@cityofpasadena.net, vdelacuba@cityofpasadena.net,
ttornek@cityofpasadena.net

RE: Proposed Mandatory Spay or Neuter Ordinance

Dear Mayor Bogaard, Vice Mayor Jacque Robinson and the Respected Pasadena City Council Members: Margaret McAustin, John Kennedy, Gene Masuda, Victor Gordo Esq., Steve Madison, and Terry Tornek:

The American Rottweiler Club, Inc. (ARC), the parent club of the American Kennel Club (AKC) for the Rottweiler breed in the United States, representing thousands of dog owners, is writing to express our grave concern over a proposed Mandatory Spay/Neuter Ordinance.

Since its inception, the American Rottweiler Club has been engaged in advancing responsible ownership and the humane care and treatment of dogs.

Our highly specialized knowledge and expertise in dogs is derived from literally hundreds of years of collective canine experience in matters of training, behavior and sound temperaments.

The American Rottweiler Club is committed to fostering responsible ownership, expanding the pool of pet owners, to reduce shelter populations, and effective, fair and equally-applied laws.

The proposed City of Pasadena Mandatory Spay/Neuter Ordinance is riddled with a host of issues, including:

- **Unequal Protection**
- **Violations of Due Process**
- **Selective Enforcement**
- **Violations of the 4th, 5th, and 14th Amendments**
- **Violations of Right to Privacy**
- **Wasting Valuable Tax-payer Dollars**

The American Rottweiler Club, therefore, respectfully submits our official and unequivocal opposition to proposed Mandatory Spay/Neuter Ordinance that will be presented before the City of Pasadena Council for consideration.

Detrimental Impact & Health Risks On Spay/Neuter Surgeries

The veterinary literature is overwhelmingly conclusive in finding that spay and neuter is not therapeutic in nature, but rather is extremely detrimental to the health and welfare of the dogs.

In the May 15, 2009 edition of the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, the AVMA wrote:

AVMA: "Mandatory spay/neuter a Bad Idea"

"Prevention of unexpected litters; reduced incidences of some cancers and reproductive diseases; and prevention and amelioration of certain undesirable behaviors have been documented as benefits to spaying/neutering dogs and cats. However, potential health problems associated with spaying and neutering have also been identified, including an increased risk of prostatic cancer in males; increased risks of bone cancer and hip dysplasia in large-breed dogs associated with sterilization before maturity; and increased incidences of obesity, diabetes, urinary tract infections, urinary incontinence, and hypothyroidism". <https://www.avma.org/News/JAMANews/Pages/090515j.aspx>

The spaying and neutering of dogs cause some cancers, hormonal interruptions, aggressive behavior and other maladies. Ultimately, most spay/neuter surgeries are "for the benefit of humans" and any positive effects are far outweighed by the impressive list of negative side effects.

Government Interference In Practice Of Veterinary Medicine

By mandating sterilization procedures for all pets, unless paying an Unequal Tax - the City of Pasadena is creating a serious level of government interference in the private practice of veterinary medicine.

The direct result of this will be that veterinarians will find themselves constrained in their practice by what any local legislature deems acceptable.

As responsible and caring dog owners, we depend on our veterinarians to work with us to make wise decisions concerning health of our dogs. Mandatory Spay/Neuter Laws significantly interfere with the private and protected relationship between an animal owner and his or her veterinary healthcare provider.

Decisions about surgeries that carry risks are decisions that pet owners need to make in consultation with their veterinarians, not the local legislature.

Criminalization Of Dog Ownership & Unequal Tax

We take exception to any proposed ordinance that forces owners of unaltered dogs to purchase a "permit", which is equivalent to an **unequally-applied tax**. The City of Pasadena thereby holds the owners of intact animals to a different and higher standard than those who choose to own altered animals.

In a recent decision, Louisville Kennel Club v. Louisville/Jefferson County Metro government, the United

States District Court held that there is "***no apparent reason why the owners of unaltered dogs should be treated differently than the owners of their neutered counterparts***", finding that a "written approval requirement" lacked a rational basis and striking it down as unconstitutional.

Punitive anti-pet laws actually reduce licensing compliance. Shelters in cities where mandatory sterilization laws have been enacted have seen a sharp spike in owner surrenders, which in turn increases sheltering costs and euthanasia of formerly-owned dogs.

This is directly due to the fact that many dog owners become fearful of new, anti-dog, anti-breeding laws, and find it difficult, expensive to comply or cannot afford to move out of town with their dogs.

The impact of **anti-dog laws such as mandatory spay/neuter is the swelling of often overburdened shelter populations, budgets that quickly spiral out of control, and the unnecessary euthanasia of healthy dogs.**

Instead of functioning life-saving stations, local shelters will become death camps for innocent dogs. In short, mandatory sterilization laws are a proven failure and KILL innocent animals.

Violations of the 14th Amendment

The City of Pasadena would exceed its authority by attempting to regulate the ownership or possession of property – a violation of the 14th Amendment - with no rational basis.

The City of Pasadena Council Members, of course, are fully aware that the 14th Amendment makes clear that:

No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

The City of Pasadena would violate the 14th Amendment by predicating equal rights of animal ownership upon compliance with the unequal requirements of mandatory spay or neuter.

Specifically, Section 6.09.010 of the proposed ordinance:

SECTION 6.09.010 Mandatory spaying/neutering of dogs and cats

(a). No person shall own, keep or exercise control over, or harbor an unaltered and unsprayed dog or cat over the age of six months in violation of this section. An owner or custodian of an unaltered dog must have the dog spayed or neutered or provide a certificate of sterility; or obtain an unaltered dog license in accordance with this chapter. An owner or custodian of an unaltered cat must have the animal spayed or neutered or provide a certificate of sterility.

Section 6.09.101 (a) specifically violates the 14th amendment by forcing dog owners of unaltered animals to apply for a **permit** in order to keep their dogs (private property) intact, or unaltered.

Reduced Licensing Compliance & Loss of Revenue

Punitive anti-pet laws – Mandatory Spay/Neuter - actually reduce licensing compliance.

Proponents of mandatory sterilization have relied on a punitive and permanently flawed “self-funding” revenue model which imposes high fees and/or fines which has a dismal track record.

Unequal Protection

The proposed City of Pasadena Mandatory Spay/Neuter ordinance sets the stage for “Unequal Protection”, as dog-owning citizens of unaltered pets”, are **held to a different and higher legal standard** than other dog-owning citizens.

Under the proposed mandatory spay/neuter ordinance, the City of Pasadena would seek to impose a set of unequal requirements upon the owners of unaltered dogs – dogs that have yet to do anything wrong – and owners who choose to keep their pets intact-owners who have not committed any crime.

This unequal legal standard is then to be subjectively and/or arbitrarily applied via the *application process* for an unaltered *permit* by the City of Pasadena Poundmaster of the Pasadena Humane Society (or his/her designee).

Closing Thoughts

In closing, the American Rottweiler Club rejects the criminalization of responsible dog ownership, the flawed concept of outlawing or eliminating through heavy-handed regulation the lawful breeding, ownership, and custody of dogs – or ANY animals.

We formally oppose the erosion of the civil rights and liberties guaranteed to all citizens of the United States under the guise of “animal protection”.

We urge the City of Pasadena Members to reject the proposed Mandatory Spay/Neuter Ordinance in its entirety, and not allow this dangerous and misguided piece of legislation, no matter how well- intentioned, to bring about the destruction of innocent dogs, eliminate the responsible and ethical ownership of dogs, discriminate against owners of intact dogs, and deprive people of their civil rights.

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

Very truly yours,



Gwen Chaney, Chair Legislation Committee
American Rottweiler Club, Inc.
Gachaney2@aol.com
www.AmRottClub.org

Jomsky, Mark

Subject: RE: Mandatory Spay and Neuter - Opposed

From: Holly Yamamoto [<mailto:hollyahy@gmail.com>]

Sent: Sunday, October 05, 2014 10:35 PM

To: Morales, Margo

Subject: Mandatory Spay and Neuter - Opposed

Dear Councilmember Margaret McAustin,

Thank you for your time.

I'm writing in concern of the mandatory spay and neuter legislation being considered.

My first concern is the idea behind the law. To mandate surgery on any living being seems extreme. I couldn't imagine a mandatory surgery of this type being passed for people.

Second, in doing some research about it, I'd noticed that in many counties and cities that have passed similar legislation, the costs to the city rose as well as the number of pets euthanized annually.

Due to the extreme nature of this legislation, I am very opposed to it.

Thank you.

Best,
Holly

Resident of South Pasadena

Holly Holst Yamamoto

818-421-2552

hollyahy@gmail.com

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10/06/2014
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Jomsky, Mark

Subject: RE: Opposition to Pasadena MSN Ordinance

From: Sheila Fowler [mailto:bengals4u@sbcglobal.net]

Sent: Sunday, October 05, 2014 10:39 PM

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

Subject: Opposition to Pasadena MSN Ordinance

Dear Major, Vice Mayor and Councilmembers:

While I do not live in Pasadena, I have participated in multiple MSN legislative issues. I have attached my opposition statement to this misguided ordinance. I have worked with California State Legislators to oppose AB1634, the city of Chula Vista to remove MSN from their initial ordinance and other ordinance issues brought about by various animal rights organizations who are attempting to prohibit good breeders from providing healthy, well socialized animals to the general public. Please read my attached letter (one page) as it will explain the benefits good, ethical breeders provide. Once all the facts are on the table, the only fair conclusion is to remove MSN from this ordinance.

Thank You,

John Fowler
AKC Legislative Liaison
Cabrillo Kennel Club
San Marcos, CA 92069
(760) 744-7886

Jomsky, Mark

Subject: RE: Mandatory Spay/Neuter Ordinance

From: Colleen Keough [<mailto:keough@usc.edu>]

Sent: Sunday, October 05, 2014 6:46 PM

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

Subject: Mandatory Spay/Neuter Ordinance

I urge the Pasadena Council to reject the proposed ordinance for the following reasons.

1: Private citizens, not a sub-contracted private organization such as the Pasadena Humane Society and SPCA that assumes no financial responsibility for an animal's health and welfare, should have the right to make health care decisions for the animals they own.

2: Pasadena Humane Society is going against current veterinary research about the health consequences of early spay/neuter.

3: Pasadena Humane Society does not have the scientific expertise to make determinations of "genetic" problems of breeding stock.

4: The 1,000 feet kennel distance is arguably a targeted attempt to prevent dog breeding in minority neighbors while maintaining the economic endeavor in privileged sections of Pasadena.

5: Sterilization on the first offense will have a chilling effect for people who have participated in dog shows in Pasadena. Thefts of show animals are not uncommon; and is a targeted activity of animal rights groups. Dog owners who are victims of crimes should not be victimized again by the sterilization of their animals.

6: Complaints against an animal owner should not be the bases of for revocation of an intact license. Such actions deny people due process rights. A complaint in any other legal context is not the equivalent of a finding of fault.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Colleen M. Keough

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AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB®

October 6, 2013

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

Re: AKC Opposes Mandatory Spay/Neuter Ordinance

Dear Mayor Bogaard and Members of the Pasadena City Council:

The American Kennel Club (AKC) has previously written in opposition to the proposed mandatory spay/neuter ordinance. On behalf of the thousands of responsible dog owners in Pasadena, we respectfully ask that you oppose this costly, unfair, and ineffective ordinance.

Mandatory spay/neuter (MSN) laws and arbitrary breeder permits are ineffective because they fail 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, while irresponsible owners who are not complying with current laws are likely to continue their behavior.

Further, this ordinance will essentially prohibit ANY residential breeding of dogs and cats. Section 6.09.060 stipulates that any resident that wishes to breed a dog (presumably this would include whelping a litter or allowing a male dog to be used as a stud) must be in compliance with existing regulations for dog kennels. As dog kennels must be 1000 feet from any residential dwelling other than the owner's home, this means only the largest landowners in the city would even be able to consider breeding.

The staff report is misleading with regard to the positions of AVMA and CVMA on mandatory spay/neuter. The AVMA specifically OPPOSES mandatory spay/neuter of owned animals. The CVMA's position on early spay/neuter does not specifically address mandatory sterilization. When mandatory sterilization was debated statewide with AB 1634 (2007-08) CVMA initially supported the legislation but was forced to withdraw their support of this legislation and take a neutral position after many members objected.

Other communities that have implemented mandatory spay/neuter have found it to be burdensome and expensive, particularly because a group of current law abiding dog owners will be criminalized by passage of this ordinance. For example, after enacting MSN policies in 2008, Dallas, Texas experienced a 22 percent increase in animal control costs and an overall decrease in basic licensing. Unfortunately, MSN also results in some owners choosing to ignore animal control laws entirely, or giving up their pets to the public shelter to be cared for at the taxpayers' expense rather than pay for expensive sterilization surgery or breeder permits. The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), has also found that it results in some owners avoiding rabies vaccinations and other general veterinary care in order to hide their lack of compliance with MSN laws.

According to the July staff report, 87% of licensed dogs are sterilized. Is there any proof that the remaining 13% are causing problems in the community? Only 4% of dogs were euthanized due to lack of space in fiscal year 2014. Given the expense and burden of enforcing a mandatory spay/neuter law, resources could be more effectively targeted to finding homes for that 4%.

Shelter populations are based on a variety of factors. Economics is often a primary cause of shelter population increases, as families are forced to give up their pet when they can no longer afford to care for them or are relocating. It is unfair to assume that owners of intact animals are the cause of animal population concerns in the community. Low cost spay/neuter clinics and public education programs designed to help citizens make good decisions before purchasing a pet and to help them care for those they own are a much more effective solution.

While it appears that Pasadena does offer some reduced cost spay/neuter services, it is unclear if there is a program to assist residents who may not have transportation to get their animal to the veterinarian for surgery. The report indicates that the Pasadena Humane Society can waive sterilization fees for breeds that are overrepresented in euthanasia numbers but it is unclear if they are currently doing so. If they are not, this seems a more logical starting point than mandatory sterilization. Additionally, many residents may not have transportation to take their animals for surgery and providing mobile sterilization opportunities may be an effective way to reach those constituents rather than enacting a law with which they are unable to comply.

The mission of the AKC is to advocate for dogs as family companions, to advance canine health and well-being, to protect the rights of all dog owners, and educate the public about responsible dog ownership.

We respectfully urge you to oppose mandatory spay neuter laws and focus instead on enforceable laws that specifically address issues of irresponsible ownership without punishing responsible owners. The American Kennel Club would welcome the opportunity to work with you to develop effective, responsible legislation that would address your concerns without restricting the rights of responsible breeders or owners. Please do not hesitate to contact us at (919) 816-3720 if we can assist you in developing viable alternatives to MSN policies.

Sincerely,



Sarah Sprouse
AKC Government Relations

Cc: Members of the Pasadena City Council
Pasadena Kennel Club
California Federation of Dog Clubs
California Responsible Pet Owners Association

Founded in 1884, the American Kennel Club is a non-partisan, not-for-profit purebred dog registry and educational organization dedicated to advancing canine health and well-being, promoting responsible dog ownership, advocating for dogs as family companions, and working to protect the rights of all responsible dog owners.

Jomsky, Mark

Subject: RE: Agenda items 6 & 7 - Opposition to Mandatory Spay-Neuter Draft Ordinance

From: Anne Dove [mailto:annedove@me.com]

Sent: Sunday, October 05, 2014 9:36 PM

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

Subject: Agenda items 6 & 7 - Opposition to Mandatory Spay-Neuter Draft Ordinance

Mayor Bogaard, Vice Mayor Jacque Robinson, Councilmember McAustin, Councilmember Kennedy, Councilmember Masuda, Councilmember Gordo, Councilmember Madison and Councilmember Tornek:

Having followed the proposed mandatory spay-neuter ordinance for over a year, I strongly oppose this proposal, which in addition to being as fundamentally flawed as the previous versions, is even more problematic. The proposed ordinance is bad public policy based on poor examples from other communities and inappropriate and incomplete interpretations of data and information on this subject. Further, it is obvious that this ordinance has been prepared without consultation with key affected stakeholders such as people who dedicate themselves to responsible dog breeding and competing in dog sports. This is atypical of the way the City of Pasadena conducts business and sets public policy, and this shortcoming is reflected in the weaknesses and flaws of the proposed ordinance. Instead of consulting with key stakeholders to collaboratively explore and identify effective solutions and strategies, this proposed ordinance is a harsh, overreaching approach that is unfair, intrusive and misguided.

- The staff report says, "Spaying and neutering has been shown to reduce aggression in dogs and has the added benefit of reducing the population of unwanted and stray animals". This statement of "fact" has not been definitively shown to be true and emerging scientific literature is challenging these broadly-held assumptions. Additionally, MSN ordinances have not been shown to reduce the number of animals in shelters and several animal welfare organizations are opposed to MSN ordinances for this reason.
- The staff report notes that enforcement would be delayed until July 15, 2015, "to allow the City and PHS to complete their education and outreach programs". I attended the October, 2013 City Council meeting where the PHS' canvassing efforts were discussed, and my understanding was that the purpose of delaying Council action on this topic was both to ascertain the level of compliance with licensing laws, and to encourage responsible pet ownership and voluntary spay neuter. These increased education and outreach efforts are likely to result in an increased level of responsible pet ownership, negating the "need" for an MSN ordinance, but there is no mention of measuring the impact of these efforts as part of the decision making process. It takes time to see the effects of education and outreach, and the PHS has not even completed their canvassing efforts yet. Given the public image PHS projects as trusted partner to the community, the notion that they would encourage a regulatory strategy to increase responsible pet ownership seems to be counterproductive to the progress they have made to date.
- The staff report cites a few references related to the health risks associated with spaying and neutering. Given the lack of veterinary expertise of City staff on this topic, the notion that narrowing referencing a few selected resources provides a definitive conclusion is irresponsible and should not be the basis for public policy. The American College of Theriogenologists and the Society of Theriogenology which are professional veterinary organizations that focus specifically on animal reproductive systems do not support MSN and cite a broad body of literature that paints a complex picture when it comes to the health benefits and risks of spaying and neutering, particularly in juvenile cats and dogs. Ignoring these and other professional organizations' positions and literature summaries is sloppy at best, and at worst, negligent.
- Some of the exceptions that would permit a dog to receive an unaltered dog license make no practical sense. The proposed ordinance would require spaying-neutering by six months of age, but would permit an unaltered dog license if dogs have competed within the last 365 days or earned a dog sport title. Dogs are not even eligible to compete in conformation (i.e. dog shows) until they are six months old. Other dog sports such as agility require a dog to be even older (as much as 18 months) so there is a timeframe during which a dog would be in legal "limbo" which was not likely the intent of including these criteria.

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- The revocation criteria for taking away an unaltered dog license is harsh given the realities of everyday mishaps that can result in a dog being temporary "at large". The requirement for spaying and neutering to retrieve your pet is excessive and will create an atmosphere of fear.
- This latest version of the ordinance appears to reclassify the definition of a "kennel" in the municipal code to anyone who has an unaltered dog license and breeds a dog irrespective of how many dogs they have. Based on the code cited in the staff report, a kennel must meet the following requirements:

6.24.010 Dog kennels.

A. No person shall keep or maintain or suffer or permit to be kept or maintained upon any premises owned or controlled by him or it any dog, male or female, kept mainly for breeding purposes, within 300 feet of any dwelling house other than that of the owner or person in control of such dog.

B. In any portion of the city, excepting the manufacturing district fixed and established by the zoning plan and code of the city, as it now exists or may hereafter be amended, no person shall establish, keep or maintain, or suffer or permit to be established, kept or maintained, upon premises owned or controlled by him or it, in the city, any dog kennel, any portion of which is situated within 1,000 feet of any dwelling house other than the dwelling house of the owner or person in control of such kennel.

C. Any person maintaining a dog kennel as defined in this title shall purchase a business license.

(Ord. 6253 § 4, 1988; Ord. 4384 § 3.05, 1956)

There are likely no properties within the City of Pasadena that would meet these criteria. By changing the definition of a "kennel", basically the City is creating a de facto ban on ANY breeding within the City. It is not clear if this was the intent or an oversight, but it is of significant concern to people who engage in hobby breeding and competing with dogs. If this WAS the intent of the ordinance, it would be appropriate to conduct a land use and parcel analysis to determine whether any property in the City would meet these criteria.

I have also submitted extensive comments prior to the previous three times this issue has come before City Council and will not repeat them, but I also want to iterate that decisions about a pet's reproductive status should be made between pet owners and their veterinarians, not by City policy makers. We should have the choice whether we spay or neuter our pets and having an intact animal and being a responsible pet owner are not mutually exclusive. Dogs roam at large not because they are intact but because owners do not effectively confine them. Unplanned litters of puppies and cats are born not because they are intact, but because owners do not responsibly manage their animals and prevent unplanned breeding. Dog aggression occurs not because animals are intact, but because owners do not recognize and address behavior issues. Mandating a surgical procedure that removes one-fourth of an animal's entire endocrine system will not address the core issue which is irresponsible pet ownership and will not teach people to be better, more responsible owners. Instead, this proposed ordinance will take away the power of people to make informed decisions about their pets' health.

My understanding of this proposed ordinance is that it was sparked by an over-exaggerated fear of "pit bull" dog aggression. How this has gotten to the point where responsible pet owners are being stripped of decision making authority over their pets' welfare is absurd, inappropriate and overreaching. I urge you to step back from the emotional rhetoric that surrounds this issue, look at the facts and guidance from credible, professional organizations and researchers, and take the responsible step as public policy makers of rejecting this draft ordinance.

Sincerely,

Anne Dove

Jomsky, Mark

Subject: RE: Opposition

From: Laura Heckler [mailto:lmheckler@gmail.com]

Sent: Sunday, October 05, 2014 8:07 PM

To: Bogaard, Bill

Subject: Re: Opposition

Mr. Bogaard,

Even though I do not live in Pasadena, I cannot believe that your city council believes that making it mandatory to spay/neuter pets over the age of 6 months is the end-all to over population of animals. ALL respectable, responsible breeders take action on their own without having to have an entire city make the decision for them, to have a pet altered IF it is not of good, quality, breeding stock. Personally, we do not need uninformed law makers passing bills, laws, or making demands on those of us who are responsible.

None of the Humane Societies nor AKC endorse mandatory spay/neuter by law makers. The only group that could possibly endorse this ridiculous suggestion would be Peta and everyone knows they are completely nuts.

I would be more supportive if you and your city council passed a law, and then ENFORCED IT, for those men and women who continually breed babies which the tax payers have to support. You want to save money.....put in place mandatory spay/neuter for anyone having over 2 children and on Welfare. Or just make it that if you have a third, fourth or tenth, after 2, you are on your own. That I would support.

Consider the fact that you have decided, along with your supporters, that the average adult does not have the ability to make this decision for themselves. Is that what your trying to say and you, the Government, needs to step in and tell us (your people in Pasadena) what to do? I say, NO. It's that type of mindset that has placed this country in the dire straits it is in currently. Americans do not need more government involvement and surely you have much more important topics to discuss than animals having litters.

Americans do not need more city councils and county government telling them they are not capable of making decisions. Take your efforts and energy and put it to good use.....get the baby makers off Welfare by setting limits.

Thank you for your time and reading my opinion on your pending law/bill.

Laura Reichert
Responsible Dog Owner/Handler/Breeder

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October 6, 2014
Via E-Mail

The Hon. Bill Bogaard and Council members
City of Pasadena, 100 North Garfield Avenue
Pasadena, California 91109

RE: Mandatory Spay Neuter Ordinance

Talk about throwing the baby out with the bathwater!! The ordinance that is before the city council will not solve the problem it hopes to solve. Worse, in attempting to reign in irresponsible dog owners it punishes the responsible ones.

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. Irresponsible owners who are not complying with current laws are likely to continue their behavior.

Problematical:

- 1) Sterilizing any dog that is impounded for any reason before being released, even if the owner has a valid intact dog license and even for a first offence punishes responsible pet owners.
- 2) Requiring sterilization of all dogs and cats within the city limits is punishing responsible pet owners.
- 3) Placing owners who wish to breed a dog under the same provisions as dog kennels. One of the requirements for dog kennels is that they be a thousand feet from any other structure. Applying this to homeowners is draconian and would limit breeding to large landowners.
- 4) The genetic defects proviso—appropriate classification of genetic defects could be difficult. Who would be in charge of this? Someone's genetic defect is often the result of bad breeding. Take for example, breed size. Honest breeders do not breed so close to a standard that it damages the breed. But puppy mills? That's a different story.

Please do not pass the ordinance before you this evening.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Audrey O'Kelley
Pasadena Resident

10/06/2014
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Jomsky, Mark

Subject: RE: Mandatory spay neuter ordinance

From: Cynthia Muir [<mailto:cmuir6210@gmail.com>]

Sent: Sunday, October 05, 2014 7:52 AM

To: Bogaard, Bill

Subject: Mandatory spay neuter ordinance

Please oppose mandatory spay neuter. Aspca, akc proves it does not decrease pet overpopulation and they oppose this proposed ordinance. Responsible show breeders are penalized while back yard breeders continue

Jomsky, Mark

Subject: RE: Please oppose Mandatory Spay Neuter

From: C M [<mailto:fastdogs5@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Saturday, October 04, 2014 10:17 AM

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

Subject: Please oppose Mandatory Spay Neuter

Please oppose mandatory spay neuter in Pasadena. This does not address the problems of pet overpopulation. It is also in direct conflict with life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Please consider that reputable and responsible breeders actually take back their dogs, they rescue their breed from shelters, and they screen carefully where their dogs or cats are going. I also believe they will be the most affected by this proposed regulation. The ones who are causing the problems will be LEAST affected because they don't care and never will. You cannot legislate morality no matter what the stakes. It does not work! You simply will be punishing the good to try and punish the bad.

Thanks for your consideration,
Corrine Miller
Middleton, Idaho

10/06/2014
Item 6

Jomsky, Mark

Subject: RE: Spay and Neuter Ordinance

From: Rosalind Zayas [<mailto:rzayasdvm@gmail.com>]

Sent: Thursday, October 02, 2014 4:07 PM

To: Bogaard, Bill; Robinson, Jonathan (DOIT); McAustin, Margaret; Masuda, Gene; Madison, Steve; Kennedy, John; Gordo, Victor; Tornek, Terry

Cc: Daphna Nachminovitch

Subject: Spay and Neuter Ordinance

October 2nd, 2014

Bill Bogaard, Mayor
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

Dear Mayor Bogaard, Vice Mayor Robinson, and Honorable Council Members:

I hope this message finds you all well. As the Veterinarian-In-Charge of three mobile spay/neuter clinics, I have sterilized 25,000 animals over the past four years, saving millions of lives in the process. I would like to express to you my full support for spaying and neutering dogs and cats at or before the age of six months. I also support an ordinance that requires all dogs and cats to be spayed and neutered.

Spaying and neutering animals at a young age is the best way to prevent them from ever developing diseases that can be painful as well as life-threatening, such as pyometra and testicular cancer. When animals are young, the surgeries can be performed more quickly and efficiently, and they generally have a fast and easy recovery. Sterilizing them before they reach sexual maturity also guarantees that they will never have litters of unwanted puppies or kittens.

In addition to the health benefits for the individual animals, spaying and neutering provides the most effective method of addressing the companion animal overpopulation crisis. The only way to stem the flow of homeless and unwanted animals into shelters is by preventing more animals from being born. This is why I work on mobile clinics which provide low-cost and free surgeries to thousands of families in the surrounding communities. We are preventing thousands of animals from being born to suffer and struggle to survive on the streets, be abused by cruel or neglectful people, or be euthanized in animal shelters for lack of a loving home.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rosalind Zayas, DVM
Medical Director
Mobile Clinics Division
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals

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Jomsky, Mark

Subject: RE: Mandatory Spay and Neuter

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

From: Denise Munro Robb [<mailto:denise@panix.com>]

Sent: Thursday, October 02, 2014 8:45 PM

To: Bogaard, Bill

Subject: Mandatory Spay and Neuter

Dear Mayor. Please consider supporting the mandatory spay and neuter policy. I would love to see this happen.

Sincerely,
Denise

Denise Munro Robb, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Political Science, Pierce College and Joshua's Mommy



Testimony of the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council
 Before the Pasadena City Council in Opposition to the Requirement that
 "All Dogs and Cats within the City to Be Spayed or Neutered"

October 6, 2014

POSITION: OPPOSED

The Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC) greatly appreciates the opportunity to address the Pasadena City Council on the subject of a proposed mandatory spay/neuter law. As the world's largest pet trade association, representing the interests of all segments of the pet industry throughout the United States, PIJAC counts among its thousands of members associations, organizations, corporations and individuals across the United States involved in the commercial pet trade. More specifically, PIJAC represents manufacturers, distributors, breeders and retailers throughout the state of California, including Pet Life Organics based in Pasadena.

No one is more interested in the assurance of healthy and safe pets than PIJAC – our members don't just care *about* animals, we care *for* them. Our association has long been recognized as the voice for a responsible pet trade, and we routinely advocate for legislative and regulatory proposals establishing governmental mandates where appropriate to advance the public interest and welfare of pets. We consider the promotion of responsible pet ownership and animal welfare to be the first of the three elements in our mission statement.

PIJAC wishes to speak to the proposed ordinance under consideration that would establish a mandatory requirement for all dog and cat owners to sterilize their pets. PIJAC has been concerned about, and involved in, the complex issues surrounding unwanted animals for years. They represent a real cause for concern and you are to be applauded for attempting to address them. Unfortunately, the bill before you today will not solve these issues.

Simply put, mandatory sterilization does not achieve the stated goal of decreasing the number of unwanted and abandoned dogs and cats, as animals from responsible pet owners represent a small percentage of shelter and rescue intake. Is it really credible to believe that an irresponsible pet owner will comply with this new ordinance when it is to be enforced using "secondary enforcement?" If the city does not intend to "actively seek violators," why make them violators in the first place?

As written, your ordinance would impose a mandatory sterilization requirement on pet owners without providing any assistance to those who might find the cost of sterilization a financial hardship. This legislation would pose a particular burden for the nearly 13% of Pasadena residents living below the poverty line, leading some to choose not to license their animals at all and others to actively lie on their license applications. For some families, this mandatory requirement will simply prevent them from bringing a pet into their lives in the first place.

PET INDUSTRY JOINT
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 1146 19th Street, N.W., Suite 350
 Washington, DC 20036
 Tel: 202-452-1525
 Fax: 202-452-1516

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Marcie Whichard
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Elywn Segrest
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PREPONENTS
 Edwin Sayres

Additionally, we are concerned by some of the conditions for revocation of unaltered dog licenses. The reliance on "at least two complaints, verified by the Poundmaster," could allow for someone with an agenda to target unaltered dogs by making frequent complaints in the hope of having two or more deemed valid. The fact that the revocation of one license can then be used as grounds for revocation of other licenses amounts to a "one strike and you're out, forever" policy.

Consensus on animal ownership issues is difficult to come by, especially when considering the positions of such disparate groups as the American Kennel Club¹, the American Veterinary Medical Association², the ASPCA³ and the Humane Society of the United States⁴. In this case, however, these groups have all publicly stated their opposition to mandatory spay/neuter laws. These documents are all readily available online, but we have taken the liberty of including them with our testimony as attachments. We do so because we were concerned to see that your Department of Public Works actively misrepresented the position of the AVMA on this issue in their report. We feel it is important that you consider the views of these organizations in their original forms.

Like these other organizations, we at PIJAC are sympathetic to the concerns motivating this legislation and we are supportive of efforts to encourage pet owners to spay or neuter their animals – *provided* that these efforts are focused on education and a recommendation that pet owners work with their veterinarians to determine the course of action that is best for their particular animal and situation. We do not believe that a one-size-fits-all, mandatory spay/neuter regime will benefit the people and pets of Pasadena; rather, we are concerned that such an effort would have the opposite effect as current owners who choose not to spay or neuter weigh breaking the law against relinquishing their animals to shelters and rescues.

We would therefore respectfully urge the City Council to withdraw or vote down this legislation and consider alternative approaches to address the issue of unwanted animals within city limits.

Thank you for your attention,



Mike Bober
Executive Vice President
Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council

Enclosure

¹ http://images.ake.org/pdf/annals_legislation/MSN_Article.pdf

² <https://www.avma.org/KB/Policies/Pages/Dogs-And-Cat-Population-Control.aspx>

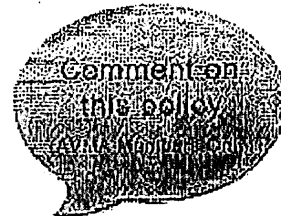
³ <http://www.asPCA.org/nyc/mobile/spay-neuter-clinic-position-statement-on-mandatory-spay-neuter-laws>

⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/humane.society/photos/a.8211037281179736.6044057811/10152036049887842/?type=3> – HSUS Comment timestamped 11:44 AM, February 26, 2014



Dog And Cat Population Control

The population of dogs and cats in the United States currently exceeds the capacity of our society to care and provide homes for them as companion animals. As a result, millions do not have homes and are euthanized annually by animal control agencies, humane organizations, and veterinarians in private practice. Dogs and cats that are not adopted can become victims of trauma, starvation, or disease. The AVMA concludes that dog and cat population control is a primary welfare concern of our society.



A. Public Policy

The AVMA does not support regulations or legislation mandating spay/neuter of privately owned, non-shelter dogs and cats. Although spaying and neutering helps control dog and cat populations, mandatory approaches may contribute to pet owners avoiding licensing, rabies vaccination and veterinary care for their pets, and may have other unintended consequences.

The AVMA believes that state and local governments must evaluate their needs and resources to develop appropriate and effective dog and cat population control programs. This would include:

1. Providing sufficient funding to animal control agencies to facilitate:
 - a. Strict enforcement of existing animal control laws, and
 - b. Licensing of all dogs and cats.
2. Prohibiting the sale or adoption of intact dogs and cats by humane organizations and animal control agencies.
3. Promoting surgical and nonsurgical sterilization of intact dogs and cats. Just as for other veterinary medical and surgical procedures, veterinarians should use their best judgment in recommending at what age sterilization should be performed for individual animals.
4. Requiring licensing, rabies vaccination and permanent identification through microchipping.

B. Research

1. The AVMA encourages research into the development and use of nonsurgical methods of sterilization.
2. The AVMA encourages research to better define and quantify the dog and cat overpopulation problem.

C. Education

1. The AVMA supports public education campaigns that help pet owners be more responsible and concerned.
2. Comprehensive public education campaigns to prevent relinquishment require the commitment and cooperation of state and local governmental agencies, humane organizations, and veterinary associations.
3. Education to prevent relinquishment should include tenets of responsible pet ownership, including appropriate selection, the importance of spaying and neutering, keeping pets indoors or in restricted environments, preventing or solving behavioral problems, and consulting with veterinarians for

information on these issues.

4. The AVMA encourages all independent sources of pets (e.g., breeders, pet shops, shelters, animal control facilities, private individuals) to educate new owners about the importance of surgical or nonsurgical sterilization and regular veterinary care.
5. Schools of veterinary medicine and veterinary technology should emphasize the prevention and/or solution of behavioral problems and other factors leading to dog and cat relinquishment.

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Issue Analysis: Why Mandatory Spay/Neuter Laws are Ineffective

No dog should ever go unloved or unwanted. Stories of dogs being relinquished to shelters break the hearts of every dog lover.

These issues are the result of a variety of causes. National research organizations have reported that the majority of unwanted dogs in the United States come from owners who are unable or unwilling to train, socialize, and care for their dogs.

As part of encouraging responsible dog ownership, the American Kennel Club (AKC) urges pet owners to spay and neuter their dogs if they do not want to participate in AKC dog shows or performance events or use them in a responsible breeding program. The AKC supports public education programs that teach future pet-buyers and help current

mandatory sterilization policies.

Identifying the Problem

Although MSN may sound like a logical solution to the problem of unwanted dogs, they only address a symptom of the problem. A truly effective solution will require addressing this larger issue.

National studies and anecdotal experiences of shelters across the country demonstrate that economics also plays a significant role in animal relinquishment. Unemployment, tighter budgets, and other monetary concerns including unexpected relocation all contribute to families to giving up pets.

As communities recognize that there are irresponsible dog owners who do not properly train their dogs and who allow

basic animal control laws they are already tasked with enforcing.

Many communities that enact MSN laws find that enforcement can be expensive. A mandatory spay/neuter law enacted in Dallas, Texas, in 2008 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. Similar increases in animal control costs following the establishment of mandatory spay/neuter laws have been experienced in communities

“Nearly one in every two families in the United States has a dog, generating a significant demand for well-bred puppies.”



SHILOO - ISABELLE FRANCOIS FOR AKC

dog owners understand the great responsibility that comes with dog ownership.

Some policymakers and groups assert that the solution is mandatory spay/neuter (MSN) laws. The AKC disagrees. Unlike voluntary programs, mandatory spay/neuter laws have proven to be ineffective. Numerous studies have found they result in significant cost increases and many other unintended consequences for responsible dog owners, local shelters, and the community at large – *without addressing the real underlying issue of irresponsible dog ownership.*

For these reasons, the American Kennel Club is joined by numerous organizations including the American Veterinary Medical Association, the National Animal Interest Alliance, and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in opposing

their dogs to roam or otherwise create a nuisance, it becomes increasingly evident that most problems stem from owner irresponsibility. Mandatory spay/neuter laws will not address these problems; however, they will punish law-abiding citizens who wish to keep an intact animal, while those who already neglect their responsibilities will likely continue that behavior.

Unintended Consequences

Mandatory spay/neuter laws also have a tendency to create problems for communities because they are very difficult to enforce and can be easily evaded by avoiding dog licensing.

MSN laws also greatly increase the workload for animal control officers, who must now also verify the sterilization of residents' pets in addition to the

throughout the country from Colorado to North Carolina to Washington.

Mandatory spay/neuter policies prove expensive for the public as well. When these laws are established, many cities find that their publicly-funded low-cost spay/neuter programs cannot meet the demand, which forces dog owners to pay full price for the procedure. This can be a huge financial burden for low-income dog owners, who may ultimately be forced to choose between harboring an illegal unsterilized dog and turning it over to a shelter because they cannot afford the procedure.

Unintended broader public health and safety consequences should also be considered. The American Veterinary Medical Association's "Dog and Cat Population Control" policy notes that the mandatory nature of these laws may

Continued on next page

result in pet owners avoiding rabies vaccinations and other general veterinary care in order to hide their lack of compliance.

Another disturbing trend arises when these laws prevent responsible breeders from being able to breed and raise quality family pets. Nearly one out of every two families in the United States has a dog. This generates a significant demand for well-bred puppies. Responsible breeders are committed to raising healthy purebred dogs and provide the opportunity for local residents to purchase a quality dog from an expert in the breed who is also knowledgeable about the needs, temperament, and background of the puppy offered for sale. These breeders help potential new owners understand the breed and ensure that a prospective buyer is a good lifestyle fit with the new puppy.

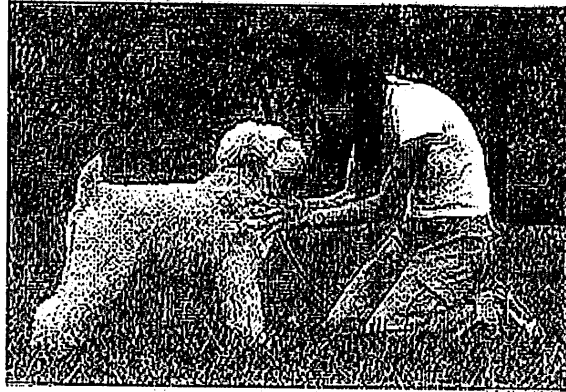
If responsible breeders are forced out of business, those who wish to purchase a purebred dog are forced to seek other avenues. This may include buying puppies over the Internet, where the dogs may be imported from countries with fewer health and safety standards than the United States. Anecdotal evidence has shown a significant increase in the number of dogs being transported into the country, with little to no veterinary oversight and care before the dogs are given to the new owners. A number of these dogs have become seriously ill with diseases such as rabies that are dangerous to both the dog and humans.

Why Exemptions Aren't Enough

Sometimes, instead of an outright spay/neuter mandate, lawmakers will opt to enact laws with stricter regulations on those who choose to not sterilize their dogs. Intact animal permits and differential licensing require those who choose not to sterilize their dogs to obtain a license that is often significantly more expensive than those for sterilized dogs. Some communities do not require licenses unless a dog is intact. Other policies provide exemptions for owners whose dogs are listed with a nationally-recognized registry.

These policies, including exemptions,

punish responsible dog owners simply because they choose to own an intact dog. Responsible dog breeders and owners have a right to own an intact dog if they so choose without being subject to regulations beyond those of other dog owners.



SOFT COATED WHEATEN TERRIER, MARY BLOOM © AKC

“Public education about responsible dog ownership improves public safety, reduces economic burdens on a community, and preserves the rights of dog owners – all while helping dog owners learn how to care for their pets.”

The AKC encourages dog owners to sterilize their pets unless they wish to participate in responsible breeding programs, performance events, or AKC conformation dog shows. As conformation shows are ultimately designed to judge the quality of breeding stock, all dogs entered into these events must be intact. Mandatory spay/neuter defeats the whole purpose of traditional dog shows!

Some laws offer exemptions to MSN policies for “show dogs”. However, this exemption misses the point that spaying/neutering should be an individual decision made by an owner, not forced by the state. It is also very difficult to prove whether or not a dog is being kept for exhibition. Some mandatory spay/neuter schemes require a dog to be shown at least once a year in order to be exempted from the sterilization policies, but not all breeders show all their dogs every year. In addition, many breeders choose to breed their female show dogs after they have finished showing them to their championships. Other owners may choose to see how a dog develops before making a decision about whether to show

the dog. There are many valid reasons for an exhibitor not to show a dog every year, and this choice should be respected.

What's the Solution?

Targeting the issue of irresponsible ownership is the best solution for addressing dog-related issues in a community. This begins with gathering data about the extent and nature of a possible problem in a community. Does the community have reliable statistics on unowned or unwanted animal populations? Does the community currently have comprehensive animal control statutes to address at-large dogs, nuisance dogs, and stray animals? If so, how are they enforced?

Does enforcement include appropriate fines and penalties? Does the community need additional support to enforce these laws? If existing laws are not being followed or enforced, then adding more laws will not improve the situation.

Communities may also want to consider encouraging private organizations to provide/subsidize low-cost spay/neuter clinics to help give low-income individuals the opportunity to sterilize their dogs if they wish.

One of the most effective ways to ensure compliance is through strong public education programs. These programs cover the basics of responsible dog ownership and local dog laws. The American Kennel Club has a wealth of materials to help shelters, community organizations, schools, and other public organizations educate the public about responsible dog ownership. The AKC also provides resources through thousands of local kennel clubs, located in all 50 states, who are willing to assist local leaders in designing and implementing positive canine education programs.

Addressing irresponsible dog ownership through strict enforcement of animal control laws and strong public education programs are effective and cost-efficient ways to address animal control issues. Public education about responsible dog ownership improves public safety, reduces economic burdens on a community, and preserves the rights of responsible caring dog owners – all while helping dog owners learn how to care for their pets.



Published on ASPCA (<http://www.asPCA.org>)

[Home](#) > Position Statement on Mandatory Spay/Neuter Laws

Position Statement on Mandatory Spay/Neuter Laws



Background

Per capita shelter intake and euthanasia have been in a steady decline nationwide for the past several decades. Research indicates that the main reason for this decline is the increasing incidence of spayed and neutered animals in the pet population (Zawistowski et al., 1998; Irwin, 2001; Clancy & Rowan, 2003). In fact, the veterinary community recently formally acknowledged the importance of safe, efficient, accessible sterilization programs as the “best antidote to the mass euthanasia of cats and dogs resulting from overpopulation” (Looney et al., 2008). There is, however, variation in shelter intake and euthanasia rates across communities as well as a difference between that for dogs and cats. As a result, many communities are currently searching for methods to reach those who are still contributing disproportionately to companion animal overpopulation. Attempts to reduce shelter intake and euthanasia through the passage of legislation mandating the spaying and neutering of companion animals has recently garnered much attention and debate.

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 (Clancy & Rowan 2003; FIREPAW, 2004; Secovich, 2003). There is also evidence that sterilizing very specific, at-risk sub-populations of companion animals, such as feral cats and animals in shelters, can also contribute to reductions in overpopulation (Zawistowski et al., 1998; Clancy & Rowan 2003; Levy et al., 2003; Lord et al., 2006; Natoli et al., 2006). However, 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.

Caution must therefore be applied when interpreting existing claims regarding the effects of local mandatory spay/neuter (MSN) laws. First, because per capita shelter intake and euthanasia are in decline due to voluntary spaying and neutering, it is impossible to determine the effect of an MSN law without comparing a community's trends in shelter intake and euthanasia for several years before and after the law was enacted to trends in adjacent, similar communities without MSN legislation. Furthermore, to determine with confidence the effects of any spay/neuter program on the animal population, which naturally fluctuates somewhat from year to year, population trends must be examined over a period sufficiently long to absorb those natural fluctuations. Claims based on one or two years of data can be misleading.

In addition, it is imprudent to generalize about the effects of MSN laws. One reason is that the definition of "mandatory" varies greatly across communities. In some localities, a citation may be issued for any animal over the age of four months seen unaltered, while in other communities, a citation results only when another animal control offence has been committed or if more than one unspayed female lives in the household. Another complication is that it can be extremely difficult for even a veterinary professional to visually determine if an animal, particularly a female, has been sterilized; it would be virtually impossible for an animal control officer to make those determinations in the field. For these reasons, and due to variation across communities in law enforcement funding and personnel support, actual enforcement of MSN laws varies widely, making comparisons between MSN laws or predictions about their impact very difficult.

Another reason for caution when interpreting the effects of MSN legislation is that shelter intake and euthanasia statistics are often presented as a total number of dogs and cats. In some communities, the number of dogs entering and being euthanized in shelters is dropping significantly while the number of cats is declining more slowly or even increasing. Therefore it is critical to examine population and shelter statistics for dogs and cats separately, so that reductions in dog intake and euthanasia do not mask increases in cat intake and euthanasia. This issue is particularly critical in the analysis of the effect of MSN laws, since feral and unowned stray cats continue to represent a substantial proportion of the shelter population and euthanasia. This major contributing factor is not addressed by MSN laws that, by nature, target owned animals.

Even when an MSN law seems to have a positive effect on one aspect of animal welfare, it may have a negative effect on another. For instance, in at least one community that enacted an MSN law, fewer pets were subsequently licensed, likely due to owners' reluctance to pay either the high fee for keeping an unaltered animal or the fee to have the pet altered (Office of Legislative Oversight, 1997).

The ASPCA is also concerned that some communities may rely primarily or exclusively on MSN legislation to reduce shelter intake and euthanasia even though the animal shelter population is actually very heterogeneous with no single cause or source (National Council on Pet Population Study and Policy, 2001). Many social, cultural and economic factors as well as animal health and behavioral issues contribute to shelter intake; therefore, no single program or law can be relied on to solve the problem.

Furthermore, one of the main barriers to spaying and neutering of pets is accessibility of services, which is not addressed simply by making spaying and neutering mandatory. Cost is one of the primary barriers to spay/neuter surgery in many communities (Patronek et al., 1997; Ralston Purina, 2000; Frank, 2001). In fact, low household income and poverty are statistically associated with having a sexually intact cat (Patronek et al., 1997; Chu et al., 2009), with relinquishment of pets to shelters (Patronek et al., 1996), and with shelter intake (Frank, 2003). As a result, the proportion of pets from poor communities who are being euthanized in shelters remains high; shelter euthanasia rates in the poorest counties in states such as California and New Jersey are several times higher than those in the most affluent counties (Handy, 2002; Marsh, 2008).

Each community is unique, however, in terms of the particular sources and causes of companion animal overpopulation and the primary barriers that exist to having pets altered. No one-size-fits-all solution is therefore possible. In examining communities around the country that are having significant success in reducing companion animal overpopulation, it

appears that the common denominator is a *multifaceted, targeted* community program that:

- is based on careful research to determine which segments of the animal population are actually significantly contributing to shelter intake and euthanasia and then targets efforts to those segments of the population;
- focuses on the particular barriers to spay/neuter that are predominant and strives to overcome them;
- is well-supported and well-funded; and
- has an efficient voluntary spay/neuter infrastructure in place to service the populations it targets.

ASPCA Position

The ASPCA does not support mandatory spay/neuter laws, however, based on currently available scientific information, the ASPCA strongly supports spay/neuter as an effective means to reduce companion animal overpopulation. In particular, the ASPCA supports voluntary, affordable spay/neuter programs for owned pets, Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) programs for feral cats and the mandatory sterilization of shelter animals and certain individual, owned animals based on their or their owners' behavior (such as animals deemed dangerous under local ordinances or those repeatedly caught at-large). In order to assure the efficacy of any spay/neuter program designed to reduce shelter intake and euthanasia, the ASPCA believes that each community must conduct credible research into the particular causes of relinquishment and abandonment and the sources of animals in its shelters, including the barriers to spay/neuter services that are faced by those populations contributing disproportionately to the problem. Each community must address these issues with a tailored, multifaceted approach as described below:

- 1) The community should have in place an adequately funded, readily accessible, safe, efficient, affordable spay/neuter program.
- 2) Community research should identify the particular segments of the population that are contributing disproportionately to shelter intake and euthanasia, and the community should produce programs that are targeted to those populations.
- 3) The community should strive to maximize the accessibility of spay/neuter services and provide compelling incentives to have the surgery performed.
- 4) The spay/neuter program should be developed with the guidance of veterinary professionals who are committed to delivering high quality spay/neuter services to all patients (Looney et al., 2008).
- 5) The program must adequately address the contribution that feral and stray animals make to overpopulation.
- 6) The program must be adequately supported in terms of financing, staffing and infrastructure.
- 7) The efficacy of all aspects of the program must be monitored and revisions made as necessary to achieve its goals.

In summary, the ASPCA recognizes that sterilization is currently the best method to reduce companion animal overpopulation, and therefore to reduce shelter intake and euthanasia. The most important step a humane community can take to decrease companion animal overpopulation is to make a safe, effective, voluntary spay/neuter program available and readily accessible to the community, and create programs and incentives targeted to the populations known to be contributing disproportionately to shelter intake and euthanasia.

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Source URL: <http://www.aspca.org/nyc/mobile-spay-neuter-clinic/position-statement-on-mandatory-spayneuter-laws>



Kristina Campbell Josafat Will HSUS be sponsoring mandatory spay and neuter legislation anytime soon?

Like · Reply · 1 · February 25 at 3:28pm



The Humane Society of the United States Hi Kristina, great question! We choose to focus our efforts on providing affordable spay/neuter through programs such as World Spay Day and Pets for Life, rather than lobbying for mandatory spay/neuter. Requiring the sterilization of owned pets and penalizing those who do not comply can put low-income pet owners between a rock and a hard place, resulting in unnecessary relinquishment and missed opportunities for meaningful community education and engagement. Laws that generate spay/neuter resources and that focus on incentivizing spaying and neutering can be more effective in reducing the pet overpopulation in a given community.

Like · 1 · February 26 at 11:44am



The Humane Society of the United States Hi Mychal, we have not taken any position on the proposed legislation in Minnesota. We encourage all stakeholders (shelters, rescues, concerned citizens) to come to the table to discuss meaningful, enforceable reforms that will increase lifesaving for Minnesota's homeless animals. California stakeholders recently undertook a comprehensive review of sheltering outcomes and laws and produced a draft white paper outlining needed reforms. It will be finalized soon and posted to cashelteringreport.org. We recommend other states follow this constructive model.

Like · February 26 at 1:10pm



Write a reply...



Jomsky, Mark

Subject: RE: Comment for MSN Ordinance

From: Lois MacDonald [<mailto:dreamwkr@earthlink.net>]

Sent: Monday, October 06, 2014 3:13 PM

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

Subject: Comment for MSN Ordinance

To: The Honorable Bill Bogaard, Pasadena City Council Members and Pasadena City Manager

From: Lois E. MacDonald, Past Vice President, Irish Water Spaniel Club of America
1921 Pepper Drive, Altadena, CA 91001
dreamwkr@earthlink.net

Subject: MANDATORY SPAY/NEUTER ORDINANCE FOR ALL DOGS AND CATS OVER SIX MONTHS OF AGE

Thank you for considering the Mandatory Spay/Neuter (MSN) topic and weighing its merits.

I would like to briefly address my major concern.

As of this reading, the ordinance is only punitive in nature. There is no inherent benefit to licensing an unaltered dog. Whether or not your dog is licensed won't protect them from immediate spray/neuter if they are impounded for any reason. Every 4th of July, fireworks will terrify some dogs who will end up in our shelters. With inflexible MSN legislation, these dogs would immediately be sterilized. They could be service dogs, show dogs, or police dogs. They could be licensed and their owners could be searching the neighborhood, trying to find them. It doesn't matter. Once picked up by animal control and taken to the shelter, they will fall under this ordinance. There won't be a hearing to determine if this is a problem owner or dog or if this is a recurring problem or a one-time event. Why would someone license an unaltered dog since it doesn't make any difference to how that dog is treated at our shelters?

If you make only one change in this proposal, give people a positive benefit for licensing their unaltered dog.

Thank you for your time,

Lois E. MacDonald

10/06/2014
Item 6