

## Sample Letter to Lawmakers – Mandatory Spay/Neuter

The Honorable <name of legislator>  
Address

**RE: Oppose <Bill #>**

Dear <Senator \_\_\_\_\_OR Representative \_\_\_\_\_ OR Assemblyman or Assemblywoman \_\_\_\_\_>:

I am writing you today because I am concerned about <Bill #>, a measure that would require mandatory spaying/neutering of dogs <#> months of age or older with little exception. As a constituent and a responsible dog owner (and or breeder), I oppose this legislation.

*(Personalize here – tell about yourself as a dog owner, breeder and fancier. How many years have you been involved with dogs? What breeds have you owned or shown? Do you compete in any other activities with your dog – Obedience, Rally, Agility...Have any of your dogs achieved a Championship? Won a prestigious award?)*

*Please describe the money you spend when traveling to shows. Do you spend money in hotels, for gas, eat out at restaurants? Detail the money you spent in the last few years. Let them know where the shows were that you attended and what businesses you impacted.*

*Breeders - Detail the steps you take when preparing to breed/whelp a litter – applicable health testing, evaluation of breeding stock, training, etc...How much money do you invest in these things? How do you work with puppy purchasers to ensure they will be responsible owners? Do you encourage CGC or obedience training? Do you remain in contact with the new owners?)*

Mandatory spay/neuter is an ineffective solution to animal control problems because it fails to address the heart of the issue—irresponsible ownership. Mandatory spay/neuter laws are extremely difficult to enforce and can be evaded by irresponsible animal owners who will not license their pets. However, it hurts responsible (*breeders, dog owners- be specific*) like me – the very ones we should be encouraging. (*What do you do for dogs? Do you breed healthy dogs and place them in loving homes? Do you responsibly compete with your dogs in events? Did you choose to purchase your dog from a responsible breeder?)*

Responsible owners who are already complying with local animal control laws will be unfairly punished by <Bill #>, while irresponsible owners will continue to make problems for the community and local shelters. Concentrating animal control and educational efforts on irresponsible owners whose behavior demonstrates that they are a problem for the community would be a much better use of taxpayer funds.

I respectfully ask that you support responsible owners and breeders by opposing <Bill #>.

Sincerely,

Your Name  
Address