

Mandatory Spay/Neuter Letters to the Editor

Letter #1:

As a responsible dog owner, I strongly oppose (insert bill #, if applicable), which mandates the sterilization of all dogs over ___ years of age. While I am very concerned about overcrowding in our shelters and the safety of our community, the real problem is irresponsible dog owners who allow their pets to roam and cause other problems. Mandatory spay/neuter laws will not address this issue. Instead, it punishes responsible, law-abiding dog owners like me who choose to keep an intact animal. Those who are breaking current laws aren't likely to obey new ones and will probably not license their dogs in order to evade the mandatory sterilization. Instead, better enforcement of current animal control laws will ensure that ALL dog owners are held responsible for their pets.

Letter #2 – Breeder:

As a responsible dog breeder, I strongly oppose (insert bill #, if applicable), which mandates the sterilization of all dogs over ___ years of age. Responsible breeders like me make a significant commitment to producing high-quality, healthy dogs and ensuring that they go to loving homes. I also serve as a resource to these families, helping them learn how to properly care for and train their new puppy. If a dog and family are not a good fit, I will help find another home or take the dog back myself rather than have it end up in a shelter. This bill will not solve the problem in our (state, county, community), because it will not change the habits of irresponsible dog owners who do not obey current dog laws. Instead, it will just punish responsible, law-abiding breeders and dog owners like me. The more effective solution is strong enforcement of current animal control laws to ensure that ALL dog owners are held responsible for their pets.

Letter #3- Economic Focus:

As a responsible dog owner and taxpayer, I am very concerned about the unintended consequences of (insert bill #), which would require the mandatory sterilization of dogs. Other communities that have enacted these policies have seen animal control costs skyrocket and, often, dog licensing decrease as people try to evade the law. Proper enforcement of such a law would be a tremendous cost to our (state, county, community) and increase the responsibilities of our animal control officers, who must now verify the sterilization of pets in addition to the important animal control laws they must already enforce. This law would also create a significant burden on low-income families, who may not be able to afford the cost of this surgery. This may result in forcing these families to choose between evading the law or giving up pets to local shelters, where the pets will be housed and/or euthanized at the taxpayers' expense. A better use of resources would be strong enforcement of our current laws, rather than enacting new laws at great expense to families and the community at large.

Letter #4- Dog Show/Exhibitor:

As a dog exhibitor, I take great pride in my dogs. To be successful in AKC conformation events, a dog must be well-bred, healthy, and an excellent example of what the breed should be. Dogs being shown must be intact, because the ultimate purpose of dog shows is to evaluate breeding stock. If (insert bill #) passes, it would prevent me and many local dog fanciers from continuing to responsibly breed and exhibit our dogs. (If applicable, include the following: The exemption for “show dogs” is not enough. Many responsible breeders and exhibitors like me may want to wait and see how a dog develops before choosing whether show or breed the dog. Often, we wait until a dog is several years old and has attained AKC championship status before we breed them.) I believe ALL dog owners should be held responsible for their dogs and be subject to the same laws regardless of whether or not their dogs have been sterilized.

(If there is a dog show coming up, you may wish to add: I invite you to come to our next dog show, which will be held (provide location, dates, time and website if available) and see for yourself the commitment that we as (AKC dog show exhibitors OR members of _____ club) have to breeding and raising healthy, quality purebred dogs.