

Torrance Environmental Quality Commission
Feral Cat Notes
3-1-07

City maintain property, colonies
Volunteer recognition
Drop off site for unwanted animals
Video surveillance of colonies
Consequences for abandonment
Free spay/neuter
Microchip
No unattended food outdoors
Ensure health of City workers
Nylar-
IGR flea treatment
Organization/workshops for caretakers
Caretaker support/City support
TNR and follow-up care
Required Spay/neuter for outdoor animals
Training
Enclosed space not as safe—animals are sitting ducks
Caretaker-City Liaison
Citizens responsible, not City
No trapping and removing to other areas
Madrona Marsh not appropriate for ferals
Google alert “feral cats” for much information
Encourage participation—educate, not punish
Cost benefit spay/neuter vs. shelter costs
Nematodes, diatomaceous earth for flea control
Mobile spay neuter clinics
Education—multi lingual, owners and volunteers
Adoption—references to agencies
Incentives for “pet friendly” buildings
Enforcement of dumping laws
Services available when needed
Laws, regulations to allow management of ferals
Voucher program for spay/neuter
Public outreach/education regarding dumping
Pet stores—require spay/neuter, returns
Responsibility taken by citizens/pet owners
303 Harbor blvd. monthly mobile clinic; \$15 vouchers
Managed care—scheduled trappings

Cessna, Linda

From: Jackson, LeRoy
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2007 8:29 AM
To: Neu, John; Cessna, Linda
Subject: FW: Zoonotic diseases of selected mammals with emphasis on feral cats.



3112415376-Zoono
tic Diseases o...

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

From: Scotto, Frank
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2007 7:47 AM
To: Jackson, LeRoy
Subject: FW: Zoonotic diseases of selected mammals with emphasis on feral cats.

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

From: Jim Archer
To: Scotto, Frank
Sent: 02/27/2007 9:48 PM
Subject: Zoonotic diseases of selected mammals with emphasis on feral cats.

Dear Mr. Mayor,

I have attached information that you might find helpful.

Best Regards,

Dr. Jim Archer
<<3112415376-Zoonotic Diseases of Selected Mammals with Emphasis on Feral Cats.doc>>

JIM ARCHER, Ph.D.
315 W. Torrance Blvd.
Carson, CA 90745-1120
(310) 515-5335, (310) 515-6188 FAX

To: City of Torrance, Environmental Quality Commission

From: Dr. Jim Archer

Subj: **EASTVIEW PARK FERAL CAT POPULATION**

FERAL CATS: HEALTH RISK OR HYSTERIA

If you want to start a heated and lively conversation, just mention the words "feral cats" at any town meeting or neighborhood gathering. You will soon discover that polarization is not unique to electromagnetic phenomenon. The group will quickly separate into two factions with opposing views, with one group believing that the felines pose a serious health hazard to people, and that they should be removed from public areas where they and children might come into contact. The opposition generally embraces a position of tolerance and sympathy for the feral cat's plight.

The first step of action is (or should be) education, so let me help you with some facts about the topic of your greatest concern, the transmission of diseases from animals to humans. Diseases that transmit directly from vertebrate animals to humans are called zoonotic diseases. Here are some examples of the diseases and/ or the causative organism:

(Please note that the domestic cat presents a lesser potential for zoonotic transmission than the other mammals listed.)

DOG

- Lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus
- R. rickettsii
- R. conorii
- Enterobacterial infections: Arizona infections
- Colibacillosis (E. coli)
- Salmonellosis
- Leptospira interrogans
- Staphylococcus aureus

CAT

- Cat-scratch virus
- Pseudotuberculosis
- Ringworm (micosporum species)
- Toxoplsmosis
- Echinostomiasis
- Platyhelminthic diseases (worms)
- Dipylidiasis
- Diropfilaria

Ringworm (microsporium species)	Streptococcus
Amebiasis	Filariasis
Coccidiosis	Larva Migrans
DOG (continued)	RODENT
Leishmaniasis	
Rabies virus	Arbovirus
Toxoplasmosis	Encephalomyocarditis virus
Pneumocystis infection	Rabies virus
Trypanosomiasis	Sendai virus
Clonorchiasis	Rickettsia mooseri
Echinostomiasis	R. akari
Fasciolopsiasis	R. tsutsugamushi
Heterophyiasis	R. australis
Metagonimiasis	R. rickettsii
Opisthorchiasis	R. conorii
Paragonimiasis	R. sibericus
Dipylidium caninum	Leptospirosis
Echinococcosis	Listeriosis
Multiceps multiceps	Melioidosis
Ancylostomiasis	Pasteurellosis
Dracunculiasis	Plague
Filariasis	Pseudotuberculosis
Toxacara canis	Rat-bite-fever
Strongyloidiasis	Relapsing fever (tick-borne)
Acariasis	Tularemia
Pentastomid infections	Leishmania tropica
Streptococcus	Echinostomiasis
	Schistosomiasis
	Tapeworm
	Nematode diseases

The diseases that are most often mentioned in relationship to feral cats, at least in public discussions, are: 1) murine typhus, 2) toxoplasmosis, 3) toxocariasis, 4) Salmonellosis, and 5) giardiasis.

Murine typhus, or endemic typhus, is caused by *Rickettsia mooseri*, and has as its principal reservoir of infection the Norway rat; occasionally, the common house mouse and other species of small rodents have also been found to be infected. The tropical flea *Xenopsylla cheopis* is the principal carrier. Transmission to humans probably occurs through the medium of infected flea feces. Inasmuch as this is an accident, the frequency of occurrence of human cases is determined by the character of man's association with his domestic rodents and is generally very low. There were only nine (9) cases reported in Los Angeles County in 2005 (my latest certified data). Six cases were from a single neighborhood in the South Pasadena area. There were only twenty (20) cases reported statewide. New York City reported only twelve (12) cases from 1980 to 1999 (the most

recent certified data that I have in my records).

Toxoplasmosis is caused by the organism *Toxoplasma gondii*, is generally classed as a sporozoan, and is somewhat related to the fungi. Between 30 and 50 per-cent of the world's population carries demonstrable antibodies to *Toxoplasma gondii* (estimated at between 60 and 100 million people in the U. S.), but overt symptoms are rare in adults. The disease can be contracted by the ingestion of contaminated feces, through ingestion of raw or partly cooked meat, especially pork, lamb, venison or shellfish, or by touching your hands to your mouth after handling undercooked meat, or through contaminated cooking utensils that have been in contact with raw or undercooked meat or shellfish, or rarely through an organ transplant or blood transfusion. It is a zoonose of dogs, cats and birds. Persons at risk for severe toxoplasmosis are those with severely weakened immune systems, such as persons with AIDS, and infants born to mothers who become infected for the first time during or just before pregnancy. Most cases of toxoplasmosis do not originate from cats, but rather from the consumption of raw or undercooked meat.

The incidence of toxoplasmosis is very rare, and generally does not appear in most communicable disease reports. Los Angeles County Department of Health, Communicable Disease Division reported only 5 cases in 2000, 2 cases in 2001, 4 cases in 2002, 2 cases in 2003, and 1 case as of April, 2004. Even though the incidence is extremely low, pregnant women or those planning on becoming pregnant should take reasonable precautions, such as washing their hands after gardening or working with raw meat or shellfish. If the woman already tests positive for toxoplasmosis antibodies and has no symptoms, she need not be concerned. She cannot pass the parasite on to her offspring.

Toxocariasis is an infection caused by the ingestion of larvae of the dog roundworm *Toxocara canis* or, very much less frequently, the cat roundworm *Toxocara cati*. The soil of parks and playgrounds is commonly contaminated with the eggs of *T. canis*, but not *T. cati* due to the difference in their defecation patterns (i.e. cats bury their feces). Almost all puppies are infected at or soon after birth. Human disease severity depends on the number of larvae ingested and on the degree of allergic reaction to the antigens of the larvae. The serologic enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) test can confirm infection. Prevention of this disease is obviously difficult due to the life cycle of the parasite. As with everything else in medicine, prevention is preferable. Good hygiene is always an excellent practice.

Salmonellosis and giardiasis are two enterobacterial diseases that are so common that their discussion has essentially no place with specific reference to cats or dogs. Los Angeles County reported three hundred thirteen (313) cases of giardiasis and one thousand eighty-five (1,085) cases of salmonellosis in 2005. Almost all cases were due to poor hygiene or unsanitary food preparation.

The scientific data do not support the hypothesis that cats pose a serious health risk to the general population or to children in particular. If that were the case, our hospitals would be overflowing to epidemic proportions, considering how many households have cats for pets, and how often we, as a society, come into close contact with them. Feral cats, on the other hand, almost always separate themselves from the

public, so the probability of intimate contact is far less than with one's own pet. And as you can see from the partial list of data that I have listed here, the cat has the least potential for zoonosis transmission among the cat, dog and rodent. In fact, the rodent population blooms wherever the cat population is decreased by human intervention (i.e. Ventura County, Beverly Hills).

I agree, however, that nobody likes feces (cat, dog or otherwise) in their children's sandbox. The Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) recognized this fact ten years ago, at the same time that they understood that many of the communicable diseases that their young students contracted were passed from student to student by contaminated sand and playground equipment on the school yard. The LAUSD began systematic removal of all sandbox areas from their inventory of twelve hundred (1,200) grammar schools. As of 2004, they have nearly eliminated all sandbox play areas in the district.

The movement to remove sandboxes from schools and playgrounds is not just local. It is a nationwide endeavor by many municipalities and school districts. Many local governments are replacing the sand with synthetic rubber-like materials so that they can still retain the playground equipment for the children, while others are simply removing all sandboxes and equipment to limit liability.

As for the cats: They are here to stay. Nature somehow knows how to maintain a balance, and if we remove them by trapping, they will simply re-appear. That fact is clear from identical situations around the country and around the world. A devil's advocate could argue that the people who take care of the feral cats introduce an artificial source of food and thereby keep their numbers higher than they would otherwise be. I agree with that proposition, but you must also realize that the caretakers neuter, spay and medicate these animals and maintain them in good health. By doing so, the community stabilizes and remains at a reasonably constant level. The alternative is to have runaway feline population in poor health, a situation that would be inhumane and less desirable.

A final note: I am the consulting science officer at one of the South Bay's largest volume veterinary practices, and a research physicist at a private research facility in Carson, California. I am currently conducting research on chronic renal failure in dogs and cats, feline corona virus infection (only contractible among cats), feline leukemia and feline immunodeficiency virus. I am also pursuing research on plasma enhanced deposition of polysiloxanes for optical interference applications. I have previously consulted for the Harbor UCLA Medical Center, ExxonMobil Refinery-Torrance, City of Rancho Palos Verdes, the County of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles Unified School District and various other government and private institutions on matters related to feral cat populations.

Cessna, Linda

From: David Young [davidyoung@linkline.com]
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2007 10:20 AM
To: lcessna@tornet.com
Subject: FW: Thanks for making Spay Day USA such a success!

Linda... FYI

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

From: humanesociety@hsus.org [mailto:humanesociety@hsus.org]
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2007 9:33 AM
To: David Young
Subject: Thanks for making Spay Day USA such a success!

Trouble with links or images? View this message online:
https://community.hsus.org/humane/notice-description.tcl?newsletter_id=7640240



Dear David,

Pet lovers across the nation came together last month to make Spay Day USA 2007 a great success! Look at what we were able to accomplish:

- 1 More than 300 spay/neuter events were held throughout February, most offering low cost or donated services to pets in need and feral cats.
- 2 To date, 28 percent of event organizers have reported a total of 9,050 animals having received spay or neuter services this year at Spay Day USA events nationwide. (Visit SpayDayUSA.org the week of March 19 for final results!)
- 3 Individuals and teams raised more than \$89,000 to contribute to community events and to The Humane Society of the United States' Rural Area Veterinary Services (RAVS) program - enough money to spay or neuter nearly 1,200 animals!
- 4 Nearly 100 community groups organized public outreach and fundraising events, from educational displays at public libraries featuring information on spay and neuter, to



Photo: Jennifer Fearing/The HSUS

This pug is one of more than 750 animals "fixed" during Spay Day USA 2007 in Sacramento, California.

Thanks for making Spay Day USA 2007 an incredible success!

3/19/2007

vegetarian "spay-ghetti" dinners, reaching more than half a million members of the public and raising at least \$94,000 for spay/neuter.

Congratulations to the top fundraisers this Spay Day USA! The top individual fundraiser is JoAnne Nikitas of North Las Vegas, Nevada. She will receive a framed *Mutts* print ("Peace to All Beings") signed by artist Patrick McDonnell, as well as a Spay Day USA T-shirt for raising over \$1,000.

The second place individual fundraiser is Michelle Moquin of Oakland, California. She will receive a custom portrait of her dog, Vinnie, from artist Sandra Merwin, as well as a Spay Day USA T-shirt, for raising over \$1,000.

And the top fundraising team is SNAPPS Supports Spaying of Las Vegas, Nevada. Each member of SNAPPS Supports Spaying will receive a copy of either *The Dogs of Ron Burns* or Patrick McDonnell's brand new *Animal Friendly*.

Finally, a special congratulations to Dr. Margaret Yates, who will also receive a Spay Day USA T-shirt for raising over \$1,000.

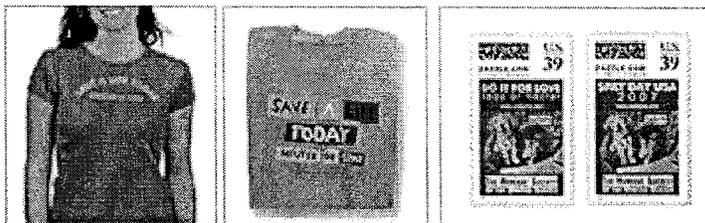
Congratulations again to all Spay Day USA participants! Together, we have made a difference in the lives of animals across the country, reducing the national tragedy of pet overpopulation by providing this safe, effective solution to pets in need.

Thanks so much for helping to make Spay Day USA 2007 so successful, and thank you for everything you do for animals. We are looking forward to working with you in making Spay Day USA 2008 an even greater success!

Sincerely,



Wayne Pacelle
President & CEO
The Humane Society of the United States



P.S. You can still support Spay Day USA! Check out our Save a Life T-shirts and specially designed postage by Zazzle.

Thank you to our wonderful Spay Day USA 2007 sponsors.



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The Humane Society of the United States | 2100 L Street, NW | Washington, DC 20037
info@spaydayusa.org | 202-452-1100 | www.hsus.org

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Cessna, Linda

From: corcillo@earthlink.net
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2007 11:42 AM
To: lcessna@torrnet.com
Subject: feral cats & flea control

Hi Linda,

My name is Ron Corcillo, and I'm one of the cat caretakers who has spoken at the recent meetings of the Environmental Quality Commission. I'd like to thank you and the commission for all your hard work on this very important issue.

At the last meeting, I mentioned a couple of products that might be useful for flea control in Wilson Park and elsewhere. NEMATODES can be used outdoors. They are tiny animals that eat flea larvae and can be sprayed over a large area. They are harmless to humans and are self-sustaining, so one application per year in the spring would probably be all that would be necessary. They are inexpensive: about \$50 for enough to cover 1/2 acre and about \$80 to cover a full acre. Here's a website with more info:

http://www.buglogical.com/beneficialNematodes_control_soilDwellingPests/beneficialNematodes.asp

DIATOMACEOUS EARTH can be applied both indoors and outdoors. It kills fleas and flea larvae by scratching them. It is harmless to humans and is often used in grain storage to prevent insect infestation. The only caution is that dust inhaled while applying the product can be a lung irritant, so a mask should be worn while applying the product. Once applied, it is safe and non-toxic. It is also inexpensive. Here's a website with more info:

<http://www.dirtworks.net/Diatomaceous-Earth.html#anchorfossilshell0flour>

Please note that there are several different types of nematodes and diatomaceous earth available, but some are particularly effective against fleas.

Using BORIC ACID, FLEABUSTERS or other boric acid based products is also effective indoors, as some other caretakers have mentioned.

I hope this information helps. Thank you again for your time and effort

-

Ron Corcillo



CALIFORNIA HEALTHY PETS ACT

AB 1634

Healthier Pets, Safer Communities.

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Each year, almost one million unwanted and abandoned cats and dogs are born in the state of California. Left un-spayed and un-neutered, these animals propagate far beyond the capacity of local shelters, animal rescue groups and the community to accommodate them. Shelters are often forced to euthanize (kill) young and healthy animals to make room for more; puppies and kittens are euthanized as well as older animals, and almost twice as many cats than dogs. The financial costs to taxpayers, and the emotional toll suffered by shelter employees and the communities who take care of these animals are extremely high. Local governments spend more than \$250 million each year to intake, care for, and ultimately kill over half of California's unwanted animals.⁽¹⁾



Legislation requiring spaying and neutering of cats and dogs is a reasonable, proven-effective and necessary means to greatly reduce the number of unwanted animals and the practice of euthanizing healthy adoptable animals in the state of California. For example, in 1995 the County of Santa Cruz implemented a mandatory spay and neuter ordinance in effort to reduce the high number of animals its shelters took in each year. By 2005, Santa Cruz County's intake number had plummeted by well over 50%, from approximately 14,000 to 5,000 animals, the majority of which were already spayed or neutered. The County realized significant improvements after only two years and its overall reduction is particularly notable since the County experienced a 15% human population growth during the same time period.

Ten-year total cost in CA for all cats and dogs entering shelters:

\$ 2,750,000,000.00¹

It is medically proven that cats and dogs which are spayed or neutered live longer and healthier lives. Early spaying and neutering is recommended by the American Veterinary Medical Association and advocated as "easier" to perform and "younger animals recover faster and with less pain."⁽²⁾ Spaying and neutering also protects and improves the health and safety of California's animals by reducing or eliminating a wide variety of health problems that are difficult and expensive to treat. The many health benefits include preventing unwanted pregnancies and devastating genetic conditions; reducing injury and death associated with aggressive behavior and the desire to stray; eliminating the risk and occurrence of cancer, tumors, cysts, hernias, infections and the development of other life-threatening diseases.

Spaying and neutering also results in significant public health and safety benefits, particularly: in the reduction of dangers caused by roaming stray animals, the transmission of rabies and other communicable animal diseases and the occurrences of dog bites. It is well documented that unaltered dogs

CA Healthy Pets CoalitionASSEMBLY MEMBER
Lloyd LevineCalifornia Animal Control
Directors' AssociationState
Humane
ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

Animal Services

City of Los Angeles

Riverside County
Animal ServicesStanislaus County
Animal ServicesMadera County Animal
Control

SPCA-LA

Judie Mancuso,
Campaign Director**Case Study**

Santa Cruz County realized significant savings when a similar ordinance was passed in 1995, with animal intake numbers dropping by well over 50%.

Animal Control Benefits

Spaying and neutering results in significant public health and safety benefits. The CA Healthy Pets Act will save millions of taxpayer dollars, save thousands of animal's lives and promote greater operational efficiency in California's shelters.

are three-times more likely to attack humans and other animals. California suffers the nation's highest occurrences of dog bites, animal attacks and attack-related fatalities in the nation and children are the most common victims. (3)

\$1
spent on spay
and neuter**SAVES TAXPAYERS****\$18.72**
in future animal
control costs over a
ten-year period

Reducing the number births of unwanted animals in the state of California will necessarily reduce the state's costs associated with caring for and euthanizing those same animals. According to the Animal Population Control Study Commission every dollar spent on spay and neuter surgeries saves taxpayers \$18.72 in future animal control costs over a ten-year period.(4) These savings can instead be directed toward efforts that promote greater operational efficiency in California's shelters and better enable shelters to fulfill their mission - adoption, reunification and saving animals' lives.

The California Healthy Pets Act will save millions of taxpayer dollars, reduce the forced euthanasia of adoptable animals, help our pets stay healthy, and safeguard our communities. Its enactment will establish California as a national leader in the humane animal welfare and the no-kill movement.

1 Basis for Calculations:

- \$2,750,000,000 ten year cost is an approximation (10 x average yearly cost), with average yearly cost derived from years 1995 to 2005 (numbers for 1999 are not available). Actual yearly costs are as follows: 1995: \$289,891,756 1996: \$278,758,172 1997: \$292,216,540 1998: \$298,575,200 2000: \$253,230,208 2001: \$291,809,364 2002: \$305,864,944 2003: \$253,842,512 2004: \$233,707,936 2005: \$259,259,000. Holding and euthanasia costs calculated on estimated total operational cost per animal of \$308.00, submitted by the General Manager, City of Los Angeles Department of Animal Services. Capital costs are not included.
- Numbers are extrapolated to 61 local health jurisdictions from reports varying from between 51 to 58 jurisdictions (83% to 95%) each year. Source: California Department of Health Services, Veterinary Public Health Section.

2 American Veterinary Medical Association position statement regarding early spaying and neutering.

3 Centers for Disease Control.

4 Animal Population Control Study Commission, Report to the Minnesota Legislature.



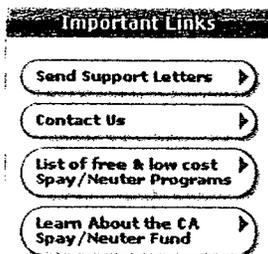
CALIFORNIA HEALTHY PETS ACT

AB 1634

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BILL TEXT



THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the California Healthy Pets Act.

SEC. 2. Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 122336) is added to Part 6 of Division 105 of the Health and Safety Code, to read:

CHAPTER 9. SPAY AND NEUTER PROGRAM FOR CATS AND DOGS

Article 1. Definitions

122336. For purposes of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply:

- (a) "Alter" means to spay or neuter an animal, as performed by a California licensed veterinarian.
- (b) "Intact permit" means a document issued annually by a local jurisdiction that authorizes a person to own or possess within that locality an unaltered cat or dog.
- (c) "Local animal control agency" means the municipal or county animal control agency or other entity responsible for enforcing animal-related laws.
- (d) "Local jurisdiction" means any city, county, or city and county.

Article 2. General Provisions

122336.1. (a) A person shall not own or possess within the state any cat or dog over the age of four months that has not been spayed or neutered, unless that person possesses an intact permit, as defined in subdivision (b) of Section 122336.

(b) Any person who violates subdivision (a) shall be subject to the following:

- (1) Unless paragraph (2) applies, a person in violation of subdivision (a) shall have his or her cat or dog spayed or neutered within 30 days from the date of compliance as required under this section or Article 3 (commencing with Section 122336.2), whichever is applicable.

(2) If a person in violation of subdivision (a) provides a letter from a California licensed veterinarian indicating that due to age, poor health, or illness, it is unsafe to spay or neuter the cat or dog within 30 days from the date of compliance under this section or

Article 3 (commencing with Section 122336.2),

whichever is applicable, and indicating that arrangements have been made to alter the cat or dog within 75 days from that date of compliance, he or she shall have his or her cat or dog spayed or neutered within that 75-day period.

(3) Any person who violates subdivision (a) shall, for each animal for which a violation has occurred, be subject to a civil penalty of five hundred dollars (\$500) for each applicable period of noncompliance, as set forth in paragraphs (1) and (2). This penalty shall be imposed in addition to any other civil or criminal penalties imposed by the local jurisdiction.

(c) Any fines imposed under subdivision (b) shall be waived by the local jurisdiction if the person in violation provides proof that his or her cat or dog has been spayed or neutered by a California licensed veterinarian or provides proof that he or she has obtained an intact permit for the cat or dog.

Article 3. Permits

122336.2. (a) A local jurisdiction shall issue an intact permit, as defined in subdivision (b) of Section 122336, if all of the following conditions are met ⁽¹⁾:

(1) The cat or dog is registered as a purebred with a pedigree with any of the following organizations:

(A) The American Kennel Club.

(B) The United Kennel Club.

(C) The American Dog Breeders Association.

(D) The International Cat Association.

(E) A recognized registry approved by the local animal control agency.

(2) The dog is appropriately trained and meets the definition of guide dog, service dog, or signal dog, as set forth in subdivisions

(d), (e), and (f) of Section 365.5 of the Penal Code.

(3) The dog is documented as having been appropriately trained and actively used by law enforcement agencies for law enforcement and rescue activities.

(4) The owner of a cat or dog provides a letter to the local jurisdiction from a California licensed veterinarian stating that due to age, poor health, or illness, it is unsafe to spay or neuter the cat or dog. This letter shall include the veterinarian's license

number and shall be provided, upon request, to the local animal control agency.

(b) An unaltered cat or dog for which an intact permit was issued who ceases to meet the requirements of subdivision (a) is subject to the spay and neuter requirements set forth in Section 122336.1.

(c) The amount of the fee for an intact permit shall be determined by the local jurisdiction, and shall be no more than what is reasonably necessary to fund the administration of that jurisdiction's intact permit program.

Article 4. Funding

122336.3. (a) To the extent that funding is available pursuant to this chapter, a local animal control agency shall establish a free and low-cost spay and neuter program for low-income individuals. The agency shall undertake outreach efforts to inform qualified persons about these programs.

(b) All fines collected pursuant to paragraph (3) of subdivision

(b) of Section 122336.1 shall be used for funding free and low-cost spay and neuter programs and outreach efforts in the jurisdiction where the violation occurred, and for the enforcement activities set

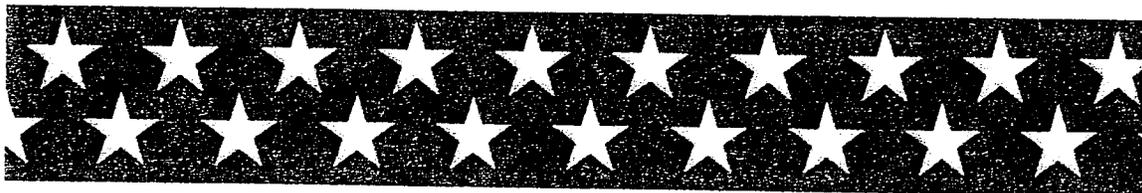
forth in Article 5 (commencing with Section 122336.4).

Article 5. Enforcement

122336.4. A local animal control agency shall be responsible for enforcing and administering this chapter.

SEC. 3. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because a local agency or school district has the authority to levy service charges, fees, or assessments sufficient to pay for the program or level of service mandated by this act, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code.

1 - Text should read "one of the following conditions are met". This text will be modified in the next revision of the bill.





CALIFORNIA HEALTHY PETS ACT

AB 1634

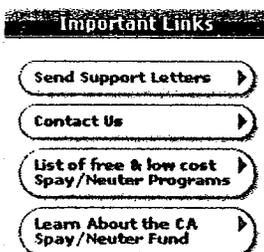
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EXISTING LAWS

The laws below are already in place in California.

Our shelters have unable to comply with these policies due to the overwhelming numbers of unwanted animals. The California Healthy Pets Act will provide a reduction in the number of animals and thus allow our state to move towards compliance with these existing rules.



CALIFORNIA CIVIL CODE

1834.4. (a) It is the policy of the state that no adoptable animal should be euthanized if it can be adopted into a suitable home. Adoptable animals include only those animals eight weeks of age or older that, at or subsequent to the time the animal is impounded or otherwise taken into possession, have manifested no sign of a behavioral or temperamental defect that could pose a health or safety risk or otherwise make the animal unsuitable for placement as a pet, and have manifested no sign of disease, injury, or congenital or hereditary condition that adversely affects the health of the animal or that is likely to adversely affect the animal's health in the future.

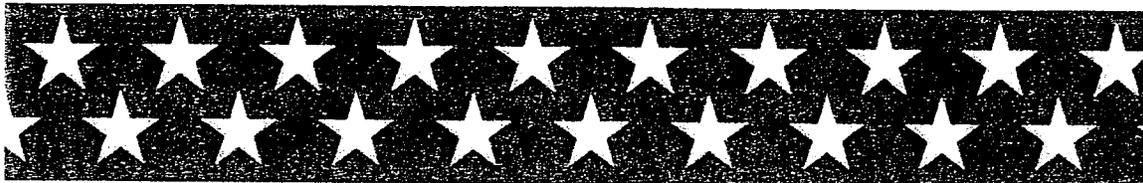
(b) It is the policy of the state that no treatable animal should be euthanized. A treatable animal shall include any animal that is not adoptable but that could become adoptable with reasonable efforts. This subdivision, by itself, shall not be the basis of liability for damages regarding euthanasia.

CALIFORNIA FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL CODE

17005. (a) It is the policy of the state that no adoptable animal should be euthanized if it can be adopted into a suitable home. Adoptable animals include only those animals eight weeks of age or older that, at or subsequent to the time the animal is impounded or otherwise taken into possession, have manifested no sign of a behavioral or temperamental defect that could pose a health or safety risk or otherwise make the animal unsuitable for placement as a pet, and have manifested no sign of disease, injury, or congenital or hereditary condition that adversely affects the health of the animal or that is likely to adversely affect the animal's health in the future.

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CALIFORNIA HEALTHY PETS ACT

AB 1634

Healthier Pets, Safer Communities.

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Each year, almost one million unwanted and abandoned cats and dogs are born in the state of California. Left un-spayed and un-neutered, these animals propagate far beyond the capacity of local shelters, animal rescue groups and the community to accommodate them. Shelters are often forced to euthanize (kill) young and healthy animals to make room for more; puppies and kittens are euthanized as well as older animals, and almost twice as many cats than dogs. The financial costs to taxpayers, and the emotional toll suffered by shelter employees and the communities who take care of these animals are extremely high. Local governments spend more than \$250 million each year to intake, care for, and ultimately kill over half of California's unwanted animals.⁽¹⁾



Legislation requiring spaying and neutering of cats and dogs is a reasonable, proven-effective and necessary means to greatly reduce the number of unwanted animals and the practice of euthanizing healthy adoptable animals in the state of California. For example, in 1995 the County of Santa Cruz implemented a mandatory spay and neuter ordinance in effort to reduce the high number of animals its shelters took in each year. By 2005, Santa Cruz County's intake number had plummeted by well over 50%, from approximately 14,000 to 5,000 animals, the majority of which were already spayed or neutered. The County realized significant improvements after only two years and its overall reduction is particularly notable since the County experienced a 15% human population growth during the same time period.

Ten-year total cost in CA for all cats and dogs entering shelters:

\$ 2,750,000,000.00¹

It is medically proven that cats and dogs which are spayed or neutered live longer and healthier lives. Early spaying and neutering is recommended by the American Veterinary Medical Association and advocated as "easier" to perform and "younger animals recover faster and with less pain."⁽²⁾ Spaying and neutering also protects and improves the health and safety of California's animals by reducing or eliminating a wide variety of health problems that are difficult and expensive to treat. The many health benefits include preventing unwanted pregnancies and devastating genetic conditions; reducing injury and death associated with aggressive behavior and the desire to stray; eliminating the risk and occurrence of cancer, tumors, cysts, hernias, infections and the development of other life-threatening diseases.

Spaying and neutering also results in significant public health and safety benefits, particularly: in the reduction of dangers caused by roaming stray animals, the transmission of rabies and other communicable animal diseases and the occurrences of dog bites. It is well documented that unaltered dogs

CA Healthy Pets Coalition



ASSEMBLY MEMBER
Lloyd Levine



California Animal Control
Directors' Association



Animal Services

City of Los Angeles

Riverside County
Animal Services

Stanislaus County
Animal Services

Madera County Animal
Control

SPCA-LA

Judie Mancuso,
Campaign Director

Case Study



Santa Cruz County realized significant savings when a similar ordinance was passed in 1995, with animal intake numbers dropping by well over 50%.

Animal Control Benefits



Spaying and neutering results in significant public health and safety benefits. The CA Healthy Pets Act will save millions of taxpayer dollars, save thousands of animal's lives and promote greater operational efficiency in California's shelters.

are three-times more likely to attack humans and other animals. California suffers the nation's highest occurrences of dog bites, animal attacks and attack-related fatalities in the nation and children are the most common victims. (3)

\$1
spent on spay
and neuter



\$18.72
in future animal
control costs over a
ten-year period

Reducing the number births of unwanted animals in the state of California will necessarily reduce the state's costs associated with caring for and euthanizing those same animals. According to the Animal Population Control Study Commission every dollar spent on spay and neuter surgeries saves taxpayers \$18.72 in future animal control costs over a ten-year period.(4) These savings can instead be directed toward efforts that promote greater operational efficiency in California's shelters and better enable shelters to fulfill their mission - adoption, reunification and saving animals' lives.

The California Healthy Pets Act will save millions of taxpayer dollars, reduce the forced euthanasia of adoptable animals, help our pets stay healthy, and safeguard our communities. Its enactment will establish California as a national leader in the humane animal welfare and the no-kill movement.

1 Basis for Calculations:

- \$2,750,000,000 ten year cost is an approximation (10 x average yearly cost), with average yearly cost derived from years 1995 to 2005 (numbers for 1999 are not available). Actual yearly costs are as follows: 1995: \$289,891,756 1996: \$278,758,172 1997: \$292,216,540 1998: \$298,575,200 2000: \$253,230,208 2001: \$291,809,364 2002: \$305,864,944 2003: \$253,842,512 2004: \$233,707,936 2005: \$259,259,000. Holding and euthanasia costs calculated on estimated total operational cost per animal of \$308.00, submitted by the General Manager, City of Los Angeles Department of Animal Services. Capital costs are not included.
- Numbers are extrapolated to 61 local health jurisdictions from reports varying from between 51 to 58 jurisdictions (83% to 95%) each year. Source: California Department of Health Services, Veterinary Public Health Section.

2 American Veterinary Medical Association position statement regarding early spaying and neutering.

3 Centers for Disease Control.

4 Animal Population Control Study Commission, Report to the Minnesota Legislature.



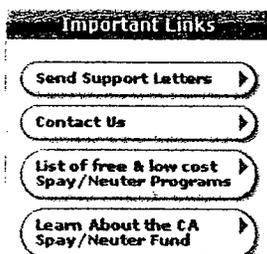
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BILL TEXT



THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the California Healthy Pets Act.

SEC. 2. Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 122336) is added to Part 6 of Division 105 of the Health and Safety Code, to read:

CHAPTER 9. SPAY AND NEUTER PROGRAM FOR CATS AND DOGS

Article 1. Definitions

122336. For purposes of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply:

- (a) "Alter" means to spay or neuter an animal, as performed by a California licensed veterinarian.
- (b) "Intact permit" means a document issued annually by a local jurisdiction that authorizes a person to own or possess within that locality an unaltered cat or dog.
- (c) "Local animal control agency" means the municipal or county animal control agency or other entity responsible for enforcing animal-related laws.
- (d) "Local jurisdiction" means any city, county, or city and county.

Article 2. General Provisions

122336.1. (a) A person shall not own or possess within the state any cat or dog over the age of four months that has not been spayed or neutered, unless that person possesses an intact permit, as defined in subdivision (b) of Section 122336.

(b) Any person who violates subdivision (a) shall be subject to the following:

(1) Unless paragraph (2) applies, a person in violation of subdivision (a) shall have his or her cat or dog spayed or neutered within 30 days from the date of compliance as required under this section or Article 3 (commencing with Section 122336.2), whichever is applicable.

(2) If a person in violation of subdivision (a) provides a letter from a California licensed veterinarian indicating that due to age, poor health, or illness, it is unsafe to spay or neuter the cat or dog within 30 days from the date of compliance under this section or

Article 3 (commencing with Section 122336.2),

whichever is applicable, and indicating that arrangements have been made to alter the cat or dog within 75 days from that date of compliance, he or she shall have his or her cat or dog spayed or neutered within that 75-day period.

(3) Any person who violates subdivision (a) shall, for each animal for which a violation has occurred, be subject to a civil penalty of five hundred dollars (\$500) for each applicable period of noncompliance, as set forth in paragraphs (1) and (2). This penalty shall be imposed in addition to any other civil or criminal penalties imposed by the local jurisdiction.

(c) Any fines imposed under subdivision (b) shall be waived by the local jurisdiction if the person in violation provides proof that his or her cat or dog has been spayed or neutered by a California licensed veterinarian or provides proof that he or she has obtained an intact permit for the cat or dog.

Article 3. Permits

122336.2. (a) A local jurisdiction shall issue an intact permit, as defined in subdivision (b) of Section 122336, if all of the following conditions are met (1):

(1) The cat or dog is registered as a purebred with a pedigree with any of the following organizations:

(A) The American Kennel Club.

(B) The United Kennel Club.

(C) The American Dog Breeders Association.

(D) The International Cat Association.

(E) A recognized registry approved by the local animal control agency.

(2) The dog is appropriately trained and meets the definition of guide dog, service dog, or signal dog, as set forth in subdivisions

(d), (e), and (f) of Section 365.5 of the Penal Code.

(3) The dog is documented as having been appropriately trained and actively used by law enforcement agencies for law enforcement and rescue activities.

(4) The owner of a cat or dog provides a letter to the local jurisdiction from a California licensed veterinarian stating that due to age, poor health, or illness, it is unsafe to spay or neuter the cat or dog. This letter shall include the veterinarian's license

number and shall be provided, upon request, to the local animal control agency.

(b) An unaltered cat or dog for which an intact permit was issued who ceases to meet the requirements of subdivision (a) is subject to the spay and neuter requirements set forth in Section 122336.1.

(c) The amount of the fee for an intact permit shall be determined by the local jurisdiction, and shall be no more than what is reasonably necessary to fund the administration of that jurisdiction's intact permit program.

Article 4. Funding

122336.3. (a) To the extent that funding is available pursuant to this chapter, a local animal control agency shall establish a free and low-cost spay and neuter program for low-income individuals. The agency shall undertake outreach efforts to inform qualified persons

about these programs.

(b) All fines collected pursuant to paragraph (3) of subdivision

(b) of Section 122336.1 shall be used for funding free and low-cost spay and neuter programs and outreach efforts in the jurisdiction where the violation occurred, and for the enforcement activities set

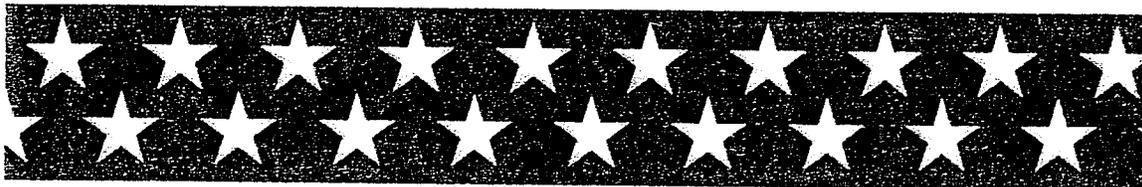
forth in Article 5 (commencing with Section 122336.4).

Article 5. Enforcement

122336.4. A local animal control agency shall be responsible for enforcing and administering this chapter.

SEC. 3. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because a local agency or school district has the authority to levy service charges, fees, or assessments sufficient to pay for the program or level of service mandated by this act, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code.

1 - Text should read "one of the following conditions are met". This text will be modified in the next revision of the bill.





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EXISTING LAWS

The laws below are already in place in California.

Our shelters have unable to comply with these policies due to the overwhelming numbers of unwanted animals. The California Healthy Pets Act will provide a reduction in the number of animals and thus allow our state to move towards compliance with these existing rules.

CALIFORNIA CIVIL CODE

1834.4. (a) It is the policy of the state that no adoptable animal should be euthanized if it can be adopted into a suitable home. Adoptable animals include only those animals eight weeks of age or older that, at or subsequent to the time the animal is impounded or otherwise taken into possession, have manifested no sign of a behavioral or temperamental defect that could pose a health or safety risk or otherwise make the animal unsuitable for placement as a pet, and have manifested no sign of disease, injury, or congenital or hereditary condition that adversely affects the health of the animal or that is likely to adversely affect the animal's health in the future.

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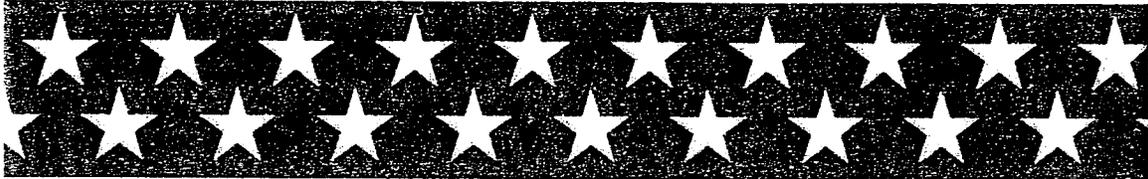
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could become adoptable with reasonable efforts. This subdivision, by itself, shall not be the basis of liability for damages regarding euthanasia.



The Madera Tribune

MANDATORY PET SPAY AND NEUTER LAW BEFORE CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY

By DJ Becker

February 23, 2007

If enacted into law, the California Healthy Pets Act would make the spaying and neutering of all cats and dogs over four months of age mandatory. Madera County animal shelter director Kirsten Gross joined the effort to lobby state legislators in Sacramento, along with the Healthy Pets Act founder Judie Mancuso, of Laguna Beach.

The proposed law would carry a penalty of a \$500 fine for not spaying or neutering any dog or cat over 4 months of age, and or allowing them to breed. The bill was introduced in the state legislature Friday, Feb 23, 2006 as AB 1634, the California Healthy Pets Act.

According to figures gathered by Mancuso from the California Department of Health Services, Veterinary Public Health Section, 841,000 dogs and cats entered state shelters in 2005. Of those 430,240, or approximately 51 percent were euthanized, at an estimated cost of \$132,513,899. "When so many healthy lives are being lost, something has to change." Mancuso said.



Photo by DJ Becker

Kirsten Gross, director of Madera County animal shelter, comforts a six week old pitbull mix puppy. Named "Lil Girl" by shelter workers, she is a good example of the pet overpopulation problem. This puppy has less than a 30 percent chance of being adopted, and will probably be euthanized Gross said.

Shelter statistics show Madera County euthanized more than 5,000 dogs and cats in 2006. Shelter director Gross said "I'd say that's education policy failure. We in animal control make the hard choices. We do a good job of making the public's problems disappear. But the awful truth is that the problems; the unwanted and excess dogs and

cats, are euthanized and disappear into freezers and trucks for disposal. That includes puppies and kittens."

The law provides exemptions for persons with purebreds registered with The American Kennel Club, or other recognized purebred dog or cat breeding groups. Those in the pet breeding industry to be able to obtain intact permits allowing registered breeding animals to remain unspayed or unneutered. Police dogs, rescue and guide dogs would be exempt. Other exemptions would also be allowed due to age, illness or poor health of an animal, as determined by a veterinarian.

Fees, fines and intact permits would be determined by each county animal control agency. Fees and fines collected would be returned to local animal control departments according to the proposed bill.

According to Mancuso, the language of this law was crafted by a diverse group of experienced animal control officers, veterinarians, government officials and animal lovers from rural areas to the largest cities and counties in the state. "It meets California's needs and begins bringing this huge fiscal impact down in the most ethical manner. It's the right legislation at the right time. The needless killing of over 500,000 healthy animals and the waste of hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars each year must end." said Mancuso, Campaign Director for the California Healthy Pets Coalition.

The California Healthy Pets Coalition includes the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles Animal Services, California Animal Control Directors Association, California Veterinary Medical Association, California State Humane Association, Riverside County Animal Control, Stanislaus Animal Control, Madera County Animal Control, Clovis Animal Services, Laguna Beach Animal Control, and many others.

The purpose of the lobbying trip for Gross was to voice support for the Healthy Pets Act and to point out to legislators the failure of the current education only efforts by animal shelters to get people to spay and neuter their dogs and cats. "I felt it was important to bring the perspective of those working in animal shelters and in rural counties to the discussion." Gross said.

"The way we have been handling pet overpopulation in the last decades is morally and ethically wrong, and fiscally irresponsible." Gross said.

"The current method of requesting people voluntarily spay and neuter their pets, and encouraging them through reduced licensing fees is just not working." Gross said. "Our efforts to get people to do the right thing with their animals hasn't been effective. The tremendous number of animals put to death statewide each and every year reflect that."

Mancuso, the bills founder, has spent the last year working with LA Animal Services General Manager Ed Boks, and more recently with the bills author Assembly Member, Lloyd E. Levine, D-Northridge, drafting the proposed law and pulling together support

from groups like the California Animal Control Directors Association, California Veterinary Medical Association, California State Humane Association, and others.

"Judie (Mancuso) has done a fabulous job of pulling all the facts and people together. She made the connection of the terrible waste of taxpayers dollars and all the pets lives lost. It's an obvious and logical solution." Gross said.

Gross says the public tends to think of having puppies and kittens as no big deal, and views the animal shelters as the solution to their unwanted or surplus animal problem. A lot people avoid shelters because they are viewed as depressing, crowded and smelly places.

According to shelter statistics from the fiscal year July 1, to June 30, 2006, the Madera County shelter took in a total of 8,436 animals. Of those 1,296 were adopted, 1,159 went to other rescue groups, and 5,071 of those were euthanized or destroyed. "This number is continuously climbing each year, Gross said. That's way too many that don't make it. In spite of all our efforts, 5,000 plus animals still lost their lives here in 2006."

On average Madera county shelter takes in at least 650 animals each month. This includes animals abandoned, captured by animal control officers or those dropped off at the shelter at all hours of the day and night. The shelter has spaces to house 150 animals, and has an average of a 70 percent euthanasia rate.

The emotional toll on shelter workers across the state is high. "People work in animal control because they love and care for animals. The heartbreak and the horror of putting down unwanted, healthy animals day after day is hard to bear for shelter workers. " Gross said.

Gross hopes this law would provide a better way to get people to realize how important an issue this is both morally and fiscally. "It cost Madera County \$800,000 to fund animal control operations in 2006. That money could be better spent than processing, housing and then destroying these 5,000 animals last year."

Gross says reducing the huge pet overpopulation and stopping the breeding of unwanted dogs and cats is the best way to control the escalating costs and stop the slaughter. "If people faced the facts that we as tax payers are paying such a high cost to destroy so many domestic dogs and cats, maybe then they would realize that a mandatory spay and neuter law is a good thing. As Madera County expands, the pet over population problem is also going to only grow."

According to the California Healthy Pets Act spaying and neutering also results in significant public health and safety benefits, particularly the reduction of dangers caused by roaming stray animals, the transmission of rabies and communicable animal diseases and the occurrences of dog bites. It is well documented that unaltered dogs are three-times more likely to attack humans and other animals. Center for Disease Control

statistics show California suffers the nations highest occurrences of dog bites, animal attacks and attack related fatalities in the nation. Children are the most common victims.

The Humane Society of the United States says animals that are spayed or neutered make better pets. Roaming and fighting is reduced. Pets are healthier, with fewer reproductive and health problems.

The mission of animal control is law enforcement, reunification of lost pets with owners, pet adoption, recovery of injured animals, and pet education. "Our mission should not be the wholesale euthanasia and disposal of unwanted dogs and cats, just because people were not responsible enough to prevent unwanted litters. Responsibility rests with the pet owner. The best thing for the pet, the family and the community is to get the pet fixed." Gross said.

Madera County animal shelter has many animals placed with volunteers in foster homes, because the shelter does not have the space to house all the puppies and kittens dropped off at the shelter. "We have a hard working, creative, dedicated staff and a great group of volunteers that raise money, help with education, fostering and adoption efforts. But it's just not enough." Gross said.

A 'fix-it' ticket for animals

If enacted the mandatory spay and neuter law would be like a "fix-it ticket" for animals Gross said. "We don't want to write tickets. We want cooperation and compliance. We want to be able to have the tools to ensure people get their animals fixed and not allow them to breed indiscriminately. Right now there is no incentive to stop the constant breeding. This is an enforcement tool to add to what we already do on a daily basis now. We would write a warning ticket, and provide the owner every option to get their animals fixed before proceeding to the fine." The law would provide for discretion and flexibility of permits and fees at each of the local counties.

For those people that cannot afford spay and neutering at a veterinarian, most shelters have several low cost spay and neuter programs. "We have one spay program right now for as little as a \$20 co-pay. We cannot convince enough people to take advantage of it even at that low price. People just don't seem to want to take the time or the trouble to get their animals fixed." Gross said.

In 1995, the County of Santa Cruz enacted a mandatory spay and neuter ordinance. Mike Mcfarland, General Manager of Animal Services for Santa Cruz County from July 2002, to June of 2006 said "The law was highly successful. We initially had some resistance from breeders, but in the ten years since the law went into effect the number of unwanted animals had dropped over 50 percent. In 2002 we had about 10,000 animals come in, and in 2006 the number dropped to under 5,000. And that's during a period of 18 percent [human] population growth. It works." Mcfarland said.

The end of mutts?

"Even with this new law the problem of pet over population will not disappear overnight." Gross said. "As with any new law it will be a slow process of education, compliance and enforcement. There will be a gradual decline each year, with less animals having to be destroyed each year. There will be no shortage of mixed breeds in our life time." Gross said.

People can help by making sure their own pets are fixed, and encourage their friends and neighbors to do so. Report pet owners that allow continual breeding of unwanted pets, so that education and assistance can be provided Gross suggested. "Calling your local and state representatives and letting them know you support this bill would also be helpful." Gross said.

"Of course, when this law goes into effect we will be overwhelmed with requests for low cost financial spay and neuter assistance. Anyone that would like to help with that can make a donation to the Friends of Madera County Animal Shelter so we can continue to provide this option." Gross said.

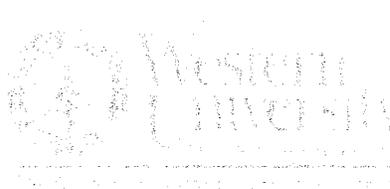
Gross acknowledged that some people will resent being told what to do with their animals. "To them I would say - come and spend a day in an animal shelter. See the process, and see the suffering for themselves. Putting a stop to the breeding of unwanted animals, is the best way to stop the euthanasia."

DJ Becker Djbecker24@aol.com



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