



THE CAT FANCIERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.

World's Largest Registry of Pedigreed Cats

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November 12, 2009

The Honorable Oscar B. Goodman
City Hall, Tenth Floor
400 Stewart Avenue
Las Vegas, NV 89101

Facsimile: (702) 385-7960

RE: Mandatory SpayandNeuter Ordinance (2009-44) **OPPOSITION**

Dear Mayor Goodman:

I am writing on behalf of The Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc¹. to **oppose** the ordinance to mandate spay or neuter (MSN) of cats and dogs being considered by the City Council on November 18, 2009. This proposal does nothing to solve the real problems of homeless animals. Programs to target the free roaming/unowned/feral cats are necessary. Services for those of low income are needed not punishment and fines.

Mandatory sterilization programs have proven to be costly failures elsewhere, such as San Mateo, CA and the City of Los Angeles, CA. The Los Angeles program was to have included low cost spay and neuter in addition to legislation. Instead the result has been a suspension of the low cost vouchers due to costs and administrative expense that have soared. In Santa Cruz County, CA animal control costs skyrocketed after a MSN law was passed in 1995. Official California Department of Health Services records indicate that neighboring counties, with similar demographics, experienced as good or better euthanasia rates as Santa Cruz without a mandatory spay and neuter program².

Many veterinary experts oppose government mandated sterilization of pets. The American College of Theriogenologists (ACT) and the Society for Theriogenology (SFT)³ issued a formal position against MSN

¹ *The Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc. (CFA) is a non-profit organization founded in 1906. Part of CFA's mission is to enhance the well-being of all cats. CFA participants, who breed and show pedigreed cats, are active in cat health promotion, cat breed rescue, shelter support and other animal related programs throughout the world. CFA is a positive force that has helped to educate the public about proper cat care, spay/neuter and responsible pet ownership. CFA is proud of its self-regulation programs to encourage high standards of care for cats in multi-cat breeding environments. A voluntary "Cattery of Excellence" program and breeder mentoring program are part of ongoing efforts to ensure responsible breeding and good cattery environments.*

² *See the enclosed table of cats euthanized per 100,000 population for Santa Cruz County and the neighboring counties of Santa Clara, Alameda and Santa Clara. (Table courtesy of NAIA.)*

³ *These are the leading national animal reproductive experts.*

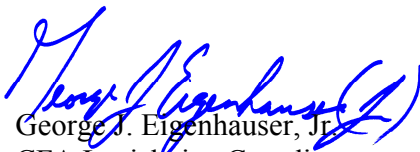
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laws. A copy of their "Position Statement on Mandatory Spay-Neuter"⁴ is enclosed. The ACT/SFT "Basis for Position on Mandatory Spay-Neuter in the Canine and Feline"⁵ (copy enclosed) provides an excellent overview of the veterinary risks and benefits of sterilization and reasons why the decision needs to be made by the owner and their veterinarian. Risks of MSN laws include decreased veterinary care for pets with increases in rabies and other zoonotic diseases. The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) has adopted a formal policy that they do not support MSN laws targeting non shelter cats and dogs⁶.

A growing number of prominent animal welfare organizations have issued statements in opposition to mandatory spay and neuter laws. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals ASPCA "... 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."⁷ The American Humane Association in their position paper on MSN states that: "*While American Humane supports mandatory spay/neuter of all shelter and rescue animals prior to adoption, we believe in general that expenses associated with mandatory spay/neuter legislation would be better spent on low- or no-cost spay/neuter programs.*"⁸ Alley Cat Allies opposes MSN and states that it is "... counterproductive; it spends limited public resources on administrative expenses instead of on spay/neuter programs"⁹.

Current economic conditions have made it more difficult for many people to keep their pets. Reasons include owners being unable to afford their pets or keep their pets when relocating or divorcing, pets having behavior or medical problems that owners are not able to deal with, etc. These are real problems that should be addressed. Forced sterilization merely adds more costs, does not result in reduction of shelter populations and increases the numbers of freeroaming/feral cats. We respectfully urge you and the City Council to investigate solutions and programs that are positive and will not unjustly harm individuals who contribute to the well-being of animals. Please oppose this costly and ineffective proposal.

Very truly yours,



George J. Eigenhauser, Jr.
CFA Legislative Coordinator

Enclosures as stated

⁴ <http://www.theriogenology.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=55>

⁵ <http://www.theriogenology.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=59>

⁶ http://www.avma.org/issues/policy/animal_welfare/population_control.asp

⁷ <http://www.aspc.org/about-us/policy-positions/mandatory-spay-neuter-laws.html>

⁸ <http://www.americanhumane.org/assets/docs/protecting-animals/PA-PA-spay-neuter-article.pdf>

⁹ <http://www.alleycat.org/NetCommunity/Document.Doc?id=240>