

Diana L. McCarthy
1064 Sugarberry Lane
Corona, CA 92882

Mr. Roy Wilson, Supervisor
County of Riverside
County Administrative Center
4080 Lemon Street, 5th Floor
Riverside, CA 92501

Dear Mr. Wilson,

I am writing to encourage your support of the spay and neuter ordinance and hope that you will vote to enact it when it comes before you for review. I work during the day and cannot attend the meeting on January 13th, so I have sent this letter instead.

I am a pet owner and a volunteer for a non-profit dog rescue group. I regularly visit the Riverside and Corona animal shelters to scout for animals that our group can assist. I have seen so many animals over the ten years I've been doing this, and each time it saddens me that there are so many more pets than there are responsible owners. There is a serious pet overpopulation problem in Riverside County. Irresponsible pet owners and breeders contribute to this problem and the current legislative environment in Riverside County makes it too easy for bad people to pass their puppies, kittens and unwanted breeder animals to the public shelters. A mandatory spay and neuter program would help to reduce the number of animals that are "thrown away" each day, encourage and support good breeders and good pet owners.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Diana L. McCarthy

Diana L. McCarthy

9.7

MEMBER
CALIFORNIA SOCIETY OF
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Karen E. Dembrowski

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT
18075 VENTURA BOULEVARD
ENCINO, CALIFORNIA 91316

TELEPHONE
(818) 345-3106

January 9, 2009

Riverside Board of Supervisors
4080 Lemon St., 4th Floor
Riverside, CA 92501

Dear Supervisors:

Please oppose Ordinance #630.12, the mandatory spay neuter proposal currently under consideration.

Mandatory spay/neuter (MSN) laws do not ensure that overpopulation issues will be resolved.

Many dogs and cats relinquished to shelters are animals that are old, sick, or have behavior issues. These animals will still end up at shelters since the reasons they are left there has nothing to do with breeding or overpopulation.

Half of the animals that end up in city shelters are feral (unowned) cats. This ordinance will have no effect on those animals.

MSN was rejected by the California Senate last year and is currently the subject of a lawsuit in Los Angeles, where they have encountered major enforcement hurdles.

Ordinance #630.12 has been revised to now punish those individuals who violate existing state or local law relating to animals. Sterilization is severe punishment for every possible law infraction, no matter how minor.

Veterinary procedures should be the decision of pet owners in consultation with their veterinarian; not the decision of government.

Ordinance #630.12 will cost Riverside County taxpayers money. This ordinance will neither reduce the costs to Animals Control, nor decrease the euthanasia rate. As in other cities and towns where MSN laws have been attempted, licensing compliance will decrease and enforcement costs will increase.

Ordinance #630.12 will not reduce shelter costs. This is because the greatest percentage of shelter costs are fixed costs covering facilities, administration costs, staffing, and vehicles. Fixed costs will not change under this ordinance.

Ordinance #630.12 will entail significant enforcement costs. Many labor hours will be expended by Animal Control officers in chasing down bogus complaints. Animal rights extremists have already expressed interest in seeking out and reporting unaltered pets. Citizens will be subject to unsubstantiated complaints from disgruntled neighbors and ex-spouses. The cost of responding to the projected influx of complaints represents additional costs associated with this ordinance.

Ordinance #630.12 will increase the shelter population. Local taxpayers will have to bear the cost to shelter, spay, neuter and euthanize dogs and cats abandoned by those who cannot, or will not, comply with the requirements of this ordinance. Many low-income citizens cannot afford to spay/neuter their pets. Further fear of punishment and fines may lead to the abandonment of animals in streets and parks, adding to undesired reproduction and the nuisance/safety hazard of strays.

Ordinance #630.12 assumes that any and all animal-related problems are the result of intact animals. This is patently untrue. Pets bite, scratch, run loose, poop, and dig without their reproductive organs in place. The majority of shelter impounds are the result of owner relinquishments caused by a host of problems including 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. None of these outside factors would be affected by this proposal.

Microchipping - Pet owners' personal information should not be held by Animal Control. There are national registries who offer a high quality service dedicated to reuniting animals with their owners. Using microchipping as a tool for Animal Control enforcement is a misuse of this technology.

The passage of similar provisions in other cities has not led to greater licensing revenue from pet owners who breed their pets. Such laws have simply pushed pet owners underground and created polarization between pet owners and government. Draconian laws such as this that drive people out of the system undermine the primary purpose of pet licensing: rabies eradication.

Community based approaches, such **VOLUNTARY** spay/neuter outreach for pets, or trap/neuter/return programs for free roaming cats will have the best results. Positive cooperative approaches have proven to be successful in other areas. If this ordinance becomes law, its enforcement by Riverside Animal Services will destroy any hope of community collaboration in building a volunteer network to provide education, breed rescue, and shelter support from breeders.

Please **oppose** Ordinance #630.12.



Karen Dembrowski
18075 Ventura Blvd.
Encino, CA 91316

Jan.8 2009

Dear Riverside Board of Supervisors

Please oppose the mandatory spay neuter proposal currently under consideration.

Mandatory sterilization laws infringe on the right to privacy and on property rights.

Animal owners in consultation with their veterinarians are the appropriate persons to make veterinary medical decisions about their dog or cat.

Mandatory spay/neuter laws do not ensure that over population issues will be resolved for two reasons:

1. It is the irresponsible owners who are the cause of the unwanted puppies and kittens, not the responsible owners. Mandatory spay/ neuter laws will be ignored by the irresponsible owners just as the presently ignore the leash and nuisance laws.
2. Many dogs and cats relinquished to the shelters are animal that are old, sick or have behavior issues. These animals will be ending up at the shelters since the reason they are left has nothing to do with the breeding or over population.

MSN was rejected by the California Assembly last year and is currently the subject of a lawsuit in Los Angeles, where they have encountered major informant hurdles.

They proponents of Mandatory Sterilization laws typically claim that they will save tax payers money. This claim is false. Throughout the last three decades, the numbers of animals impounded and euthanized nationwide declined dramatically. At the same time, animal control cost increased. There is no reason to believe that this proposal would significantly impact animal control costs.

Here are some facts:

With the exception of feral cats and kittens (cats without owners to regulate) the overwhelming majority of shelter animals are not surplus puppies and kittens.

The majority of shelter impounds are the result of owner relinquishments caused by a host of problems including 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. Since none of these outside factors would be affected by this proposal, animal control cost are unlikely to decline.

Steep declines in shelter impounds in other parts of the country have seldom led to reduced animal control costs.

Grants from non Government groups such as the Maddies Fund www.maddiefund.org have policies of not funding government mandated programs.

The passage of similar provisions in other cities has not led to greater licensing revenue from pet owners who breed their pets. Such laws have simply pushed pet owners underground and created polarization between pet owners and government.

Draconian laws that drive people out of the system undermine the primary purpose of pet licensing: rabies eradication.

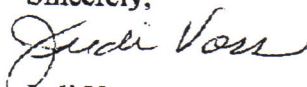
MAN drives many responsible breeders out of practice, thereby reducing the supply of well breed, healthy, home raised puppies and kittens. This makes it likely that they will be replaced by ones in poorer condition. Mexico still has significant problems with rabies as the many other countries that are beginning to supply consumers in the United States.

Others involved in therapy dogs, working dogs, search and rescue and police work generate additional millions for the state's economy.

Many of the people who would be affected by this proposal are the very people who at no taxpayer expensive currently re-home shelter dogs and cats, educate the public about responsible pet ownership, give low cost dog training classes, fund microchip and spay/neuter clinics, etc. The cost of the free services would amount to additional millions if they had to be replaced by the government agencies.

PLEASE OPPOSE MANDATORY SPAY NEUTER

Sincerely,



Judi Voss

Judi Voss

Romero, Nancy

From: Gregory, Lynda
Sent: Monday, January 12, 2009 12:38 PM
To: Wilson, Roy
Cc: Romero, Nancy
Subject: Ms. Estelle Dahl, Indio Hills

Supv. Wilson,

Ms. Dahl phoned in opposition to the proposed spay-neuter ordinance, 630.12.

Even with secondary enforcement and a hearing process, Ms. Dahl believes this is too restrictive. She is concerned that purebreds would be required to be altered upon a law violation. If the enforcement is based on a second offense rather than a first, she would be supportive. "People who violate the laws are usually repeat offenders," she explained.

She also pointed out that 4 months is too young to spay a female.

Ms. Dahl has requested that her comments be part of the public record for the hearing tomorrow.

Lynda Gregory, Legislative Assistant
Riverside County Supervisor Roy Wilson, Fourth District
Palm Desert district office
www.RivCo4.org