



**AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUBSM**

MANDATORY SPAY/NEUTER TALKING POINTS

WHY THE PUREBRED DOG FANCY IS CONCERNED ABOUT THIS ISSUE

No group could be more concerned about the problems irresponsible dog owners, irresponsible breeding, and inadequate animal control can cause a community than the purebred dog fancy. The dog fancy's goal is non-discriminatory, fair, effective and enforceable legislation that addresses the pertinent animal issues in the community.

MANDATORY SPAY/NEUTER LAWS ARE NOT THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO SOLVE ANIMAL CONTROL PROBLEMS

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 by not licensing their pets. More regulations increase the workload of already financially strained animal control offices, making it even more difficult for them to perform their duties.

MANDATORY SPAY/NEUTER PROPOSALS ARE UNFAIR TO RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERS AND BREEDERS

- Responsible owners should be allowed to use their own discretion in determining whether to alter their animals, spay/neuter requirements target all owners regardless of their actions. These breeders make a serious commitment to their animals, working hard to raise healthy, well cared for dogs and work to ensure that these puppies are placed with responsible owners.
- Spaying and neutering is a surgical procedure that may not be right for all animals. A licensed veterinarian should perform these procedures only after consultation with the owner and a thorough examination.

A BETTER SOLUTION IS AVAILABLE

- Strongly enforced animal control laws (such as leash laws), and increased public education efforts are better ways to address the issue of irresponsible dog ownership.
- A public education campaign teaches community residents about how to properly care for their pets, as well as the need to be a responsible pet owner. AKC has free materials available on issues such as housebreaking, obedience training, excessive barking and daily care.

THE PUREBRED DOG FANCY AND THE AKC ARE VALUABLE RESOURCES

The purebred dog fancy is extremely interested in developing fair and effective animal control laws, as well as bolstering public education efforts to promote responsible dog ownership. To help achieve these goals, the fancy will assist the community by serving on or starting animal control advisory boards to monitor problems and help develop reasonable solutions, and volunteering time and resources to help start or improve public education campaigns to teach responsible dog ownership.

AKC's Government Relations and Public Education departments can also assist communities. The Government Relations department provides sample legislation and helps develop or improve animal control laws. The Public Education department gives communities free materials and assistance in conducting responsible dog ownership campaigns.

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