



# THE CAT FANCIERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.

World's Largest Registry of Pedigreed Cats

**Joan Miller**

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October 6, 2013

TO: Pasadena City Council

FROM: Joan Miller  
CFA Legislative Information Liaison

SUBJECT: **MANDATORY SPAY/NEUTER ORDINANCE FOR CATS AND DOGS OVER 4 MONTHS.**

Honorable Mayor and City Council Members;

The Cat Fanciers' Association is the largest and most prominent International registry of pedigreed cats in the world. We were founded in 1906 and our mission is "to preserve and promote the pedigreed breeds of cats and to enhance the well-being of ALL cats".

We have become aware that the first reading for a mandatory spay/neuter ordinance for Pasadena is scheduled for the Council Agenda, October 7, 2013. CFA is greatly concerned about many aspects of this ordinance.

We share your goal to reduce the number of homeless dogs and cats in the community and in the shelter; however, we encourage you to consider the negative consequences of a mandatory spay/neuter proposal to achieve these objectives.

I have attached several policy statements of highly respected medical and animal welfare organizations who oppose mandatory spay/neuter (MSN) laws. MSN ordinances have been shown to actually increase intakes of cats and increase costs. We ask that you vote to not authorize going further with the proposed ordinance. **A few fundamental reasons specific to cat issues are:**

1. In numerous studies it is clear that pet cat owners are already very responsible. Approximately 88% to 94% of households already alter their cats. Some report they cannot afford the cost and others feel their cat is too young or too old. There is no need to require something that has been successfully achieved through education and voluntary action. Keeping an unaltered indoor-only pet cat is virtually impossible since male cats spray and female cats are constantly in heat and often have health and behavioral problems if not bred. The increasing trend in the US is for cats to be kept indoors,

2. Cats most often found in the shelters are those who are un-owned/feral or “loosely owned” free-roaming, random-bred cats or kittens born to feral cats. The very small number of owners who allow an intact cat to go outside will not comply with a MSN law. A recent study in Santa Clara County, which has no MSN law, reports that “with the start of the municipally funded spay/neuter program, cat intakes declined 50% over 18 years. In only 3 years, intakes declined an additional 25% coinciding with the start of the Shelter Neuter Return project (feral cats altered and returned), and no other changes to animal control programs. Further, in 1993, 16% of owned cats had a litter prior to being spayed, while in 2005, less than ½ of 1% of owned cats had a litter prior to altering (Kass, et al., 2013).
3. The proposed language provides exemptions for working dogs and show dogs; however, there are NO exemptions for cats, other than age or infirmity. This is entirely unreasonable.
4. Responsible, reputable pedigreed cat breeders work to produce show kittens and cats with the goal of preserving their chosen breeds, most of which have become rare. They also provide unique pets for those who desire predictable personality characteristics, good health and beauty.. Four months is the earliest age at which a kitten may be in a CFA show. Breeders need to show their kittens in order to determine their quality and worth as breeding cats, It is unlikely that there are many pedigreed cat breeders living in Pasadena; however, the loss of a single breeder is extremely detrimental to the bloodlines of rare and desired breeds.
5. National Studies show that 34% of all households obtain cats as strays who come to the door. (APPA 2010) There is NO purposeful breeding of non-pedigreed cats. Reproduction of stray cats will increase if they are ignored for fear of violation of a MSN law. The ordinance will mean people may relinquish cats because they cannot afford to alter them. These individuals need assistance not punishment.

More than anything communities that have had success reducing shelter populations of both cats and dogs have done so by encouraging community collaboration with animal services and through affordable spay neuter programs. CFA urges you to reject the path of a seemingly easy spay/neuter mandate solution. This has not succeeded in other communities where the hoped for reduction in the numbers of animals has not been achieved in the shelter nor reduced the associated costs.

I would welcome your contact.

Sincerely,



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Attachment – Opposition statements to Mandatory Spay Neuter  
American College of Theriogenologists  
American Veterinary Medical Association  
ASPCA  
Alley Cat Allies  
National Animal Interest Alliance