



# THE CAT FANCIERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.

World's Largest Registry of Pedigreed Cats

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April 3, 2009

Senate Local Government Committee  
ATTN: Peter Detwiler  
State Capitol, Room 5046  
Sacramento CA 95814

VIA TELEFACSIMILE  
FAX 916-322-0298

Re: SB 250 as amended April 2, 2009 OPPOSITION  
An act to add Section 30804.6 to the Food and  
Agricultural Code, relating to animals.

Dear Mr. Detwiler;

I am writing on behalf of The Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc.<sup>1</sup> to oppose SB 250 as amended on April 2, 2009. Please include our organization on the Committee's Bill Analysis opposition list.

Mandatory spay and neuter programs (MSN) 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. It has instead resulted in the suspension of the low cost vouchers and administrative costs have soared. In Santa Cruz County, CA animal control costs skyrocketed after a MSN law was passed in 1995. While euthanasia of cats declined slightly in Santa Cruz, the rate fell less than in other nearby areas. California Department of Health Services records indicate that neighboring counties, with similar demographics, experienced as good or better euthanasia rates without a mandatory spay and neuter program<sup>2</sup>. The recent program enacted by Riverside County was so flawed that a committee has been created to correct the shortcomings of the ordinance. Analysis of a similar statewide proposal last year (AB 1634) by the California Department of Finance showed animal control costs are likely to rise,

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<sup>1</sup> *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.*

<sup>2</sup> *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.)*

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euthanasia rates increase, and pet licensing drop off. Money will have to be taken from other vital local services.

Forced sterilization will have many unfortunate consequences. It should be noted that most veterinary experts oppose mandatory sterilization of pets. The American College of Theriogenologists (ACT) and the Society for Theriogenology (SFT) recently issued a formal position against MSN laws. A copy of their "Position Statement on Mandatory Spay-Neuter" is enclosed. Their "Basis for Position on Mandatory Spay-Neuter in the Canine and Feline" provides an excellent overview of the veterinary risks and benefits of sterilization, and why the decision needs to be made by the owner and their veterinarian. A copy of this analysis is also enclosed.

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. Forced sterilization adds more costs to pet owners and already overburdened local governments. We urge that SB 250 be entirely rejected by the Committee.

Very truly yours,

George J. Eigenhauser, Jr.  
CFA Legislative Coordinator

Enclosures as stated

CC: Senator Dean Florez  
Senate Local Government Committee members  
Pamela DelaBar, CFA President  
Allene Tartaglia, CFA Executive Director