

CHARLES H. BRIDGES, JR.

POST OFFICE BOX 355 · TRACY, CA 95378-0355 · (209) 835-6530 · FAX (209) 835-6525

June 26, 2009

The Honorable Mary Hayashi
Chair, Business and Professions Committee
California State Assembly
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Oppose SB 250, as amended May 28, 2009.

Dear Assembly Member Hayashi:

I am writing you today because my wife and I are concerned about Senate Bill 250, a measure that would require owners of intact dogs either to purchase unaltered dog licenses or to sterilize the dogs, would make it easier to deny or revoke licenses for unaltered dogs and would require the mandatory sterilization of pets for a single violation of animal control ordinances. We strenuously oppose this legislation.

We have owned pets throughout our lives and have been active exhibitors of Chow Chows and Greyhounds since 1994. I am an AKC licensed judge. We are also active in The Chow Chow Club, Inc. (the national Chow Chow organization), Redwood Coast Chow Chow Club, Chow Fanciers Association of Southern California, and the Greyhound Club of Northern California, all of which conduct extensive breed information and breed rescue programs. We are concerned about abandoned animals and work hard with other members of the fancy to help solve this problem.

Here's how we view it. The most prestigious animal welfare organization in the U. S. sees no benefit to mandatory spay/neuter laws:

. . . 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.

– ASPCA Position Statement on Mandatory Spay/Neuter Laws

The example of Santa Cruz County, which has had an MSN ordinance since 1994 shows no incremental benefit:

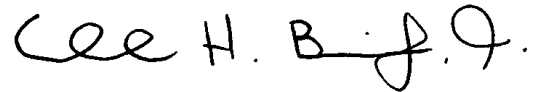
	<u>Change in Dogs Impounded</u> <u>1994 – 2007</u>	<u>Change in Dogs Euthanized</u> <u>1994 – 2007</u>
State of California	-29%	-52%
Santa Cruz County	-27%	-50%
Source: California Department of Public Health, Annual Report Local Rabies Control Activities		

We believe that the diversity of communities in California suggests animal control issues may be best addressed locally. Clearly, the animal control issues in the state's rural counties are much different than those in our urban centers. The ASPCA in its Position Statement continues, "Each community is unique, however, in terms of the particular sources and causes of companion animal overpopulation No one-size-fits-all solution is therefore possible."

Indeed, there are alternative practices that work without the coercion of mandatory spay/neuter laws. For instance, the "No Kill" practices adopted in a number of communities across the country and highlighted in Redemption: The Myth of Pet Overpopulation and the No Kill Revolution in America by Nathan J. Winograd provides such an alternative. Sadly, the entrenched "Animal Rights" establishment has lost sight of its mission – improving the welfare of animals – and opposes solutions that work, but fail ideological litmus tests.

We respectfully ask that you consider the extreme shortcomings of this proposed legislation and oppose SB 250.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles H. Bridges, Jr." in a cursive, slightly slanted script.

Charles H. Bridges, Jr.

cc: Members, Assembly Business and Professions Committee
Staff, Assembly Business and Professions Committee
Senator Dean Florez