



# THE CAT FANCIERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.

## World's Largest Registry of Pedigreed Cats

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March 24, 2009

The Honorable Richard M. Daley  
Office of the Mayor - City Hall  
121 N. LaSalle, Room 507  
Chicago, IL 60602

Facsimile: 312-744-8045

### RE: "Mandatory Pet Spay-and-Neuter Ordinance" **OPPOSITION**

Dear Mayor Daley;

I am writing on behalf of The Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc.<sup>1</sup> to express our **opposition** to the proposed Mandatory Pet Spay-and-Neuter (MSN) Ordinance being considered by Chicago. This proposal does nothing to solve the real problems in Chicago. Programs to target the free roaming/unowned/feral cats are necessary. Services for those of low income are needed not punishment and fines.

Mandatory sterilization programs and breeder licensing 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 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.

Forced sterilization will have many unfortunate consequences. It should be noted that most veterinary

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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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experts oppose mandatory sterilization of pets. The American College of Theriogenologists (ACT) and the Society for Theriogenology (SFT)<sup>3</sup> 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.

Finally, some of the support for this MSN proposal is directed at gang activity. It seems highly improbable that gang members, already involved in serious violent crimes, will be inconvenienced in any way by a pet sterilization law. Gang members can simply abandon their dogs if caught. But cats are not small dogs. There are no reports of gangs using cats in any illegal activities. The provisions of this ordinance mandating sterilization of cats will have no impact on gang activity but will turn many low income Chicagoans into criminals.

We respectfully urge you and the City Council to investigate solutions and programs that are positive and will not unjustly harm individuals who contribute to the well-being of animals. Please oppose this costly proposal.

Very truly yours,



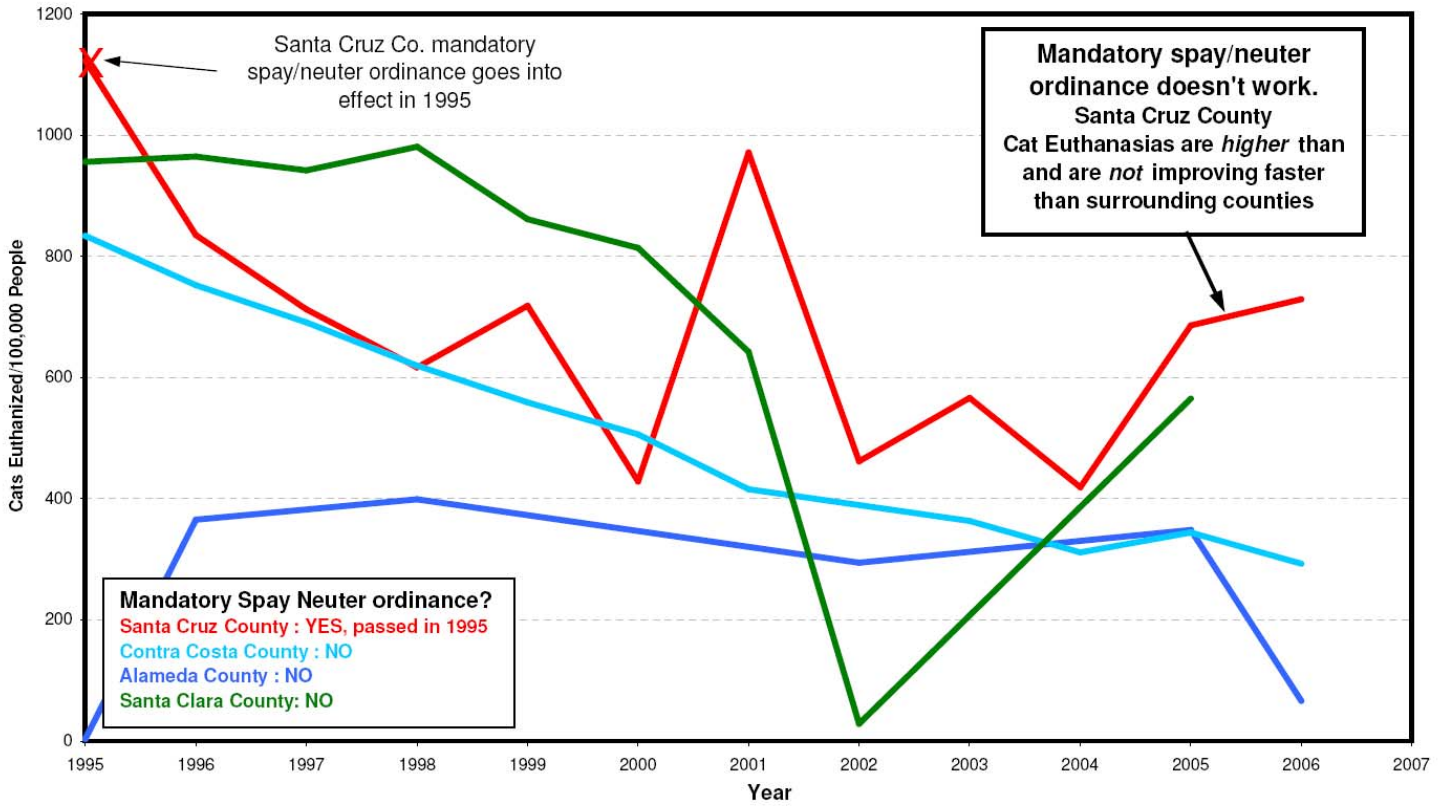
George J. Eigenhauser, Jr.  
CFA Legislative Coordinator

Enclosures as stated

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<sup>3</sup> *These are the leading national animal reproductive experts.*

**California Department of Health Services - Veterinary Public Health Section  
 Cat Euthanasias per 100,000 People  
 Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, Alameda, Contra Costa Counties**



1) Sources: California Department of Health Services -- Veterinary Public Health Section, The National Animal Interest Alliance, The National Pet Council  
 2) under reported data omitted