



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUBSM

April 24, 2006

The Honorable Michael D. Antonovich
Mayor, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
869 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mr. Mayor:

The American Kennel Club (AKC) is greatly disappointed by last week's vote of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to continue the process of consideration for a mandatory spay/neuter ordinance for Los Angeles County. Mandatory spay/neuter is an ineffective solution to animal control problems because it fails to address the heart of the issue—irresponsible ownership. The proposed ordinance will unfairly punish responsible owners who are already complying with local animal control laws, while irresponsible owners continue to make problems for the community and local shelters and evade detection by not licensing their pets.

The American Kennel Club believes that the enforcement of existing leash and nuisance laws, coupled with educating the public about responsible breeding practices, best addresses pet population issues. Mandatory spaying or neutering of all canines except for the exempted categories in the proposed ordinance will not reduce the incidence of dog-related problems caused by irresponsible owners.

The American Kennel Club understands the desire to assure safe communities for people and dogs alike, and the concomitant need to focus on pet population issues. The AKC believes these issues are best served through aggressive enforcement of existing ordinances coupled with public education centered on responsible pet ownership. The American Kennel Club and local purebred dog constituents stand prepared to assist you in the development of reasonable animal control regulations. We urge you to reject the proposed mandatory spay/neuter ordinance at the May 2, 2006 Supervisors' Meeting.

Sincerely,

Walter R. Bebout
Director of Canine Legislation

Cc: Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Los Angeles County Animal Care and Control
Sacramento Council of Dog Clubs
California Federation of Dog Clubs
The Animal Council
American Rottweiler Club
Antelope Valley Kennel Club