

# ***Will mandatory spay / neuter laws take your rights and pets away?***

There seems to be a prevailing attitude that all pet owners are allowing their pets to breed indiscriminately, produce puppies and then place them in shelters. THIS IS NOT TRUE. Animal rights extremist are disseminating this propaganda to abolish all ownership of domestic animals. There are millions of responsible pet owners with both voluntarily altered and unaltered animals. It is wrong to take away the rights of all these American citizens for the irresponsibility of a few.

Some facts:

- o If all animals are altered then there will soon be no domestic pets, no service dogs, no therapy dogs, no search and rescue dogs, no show dogs, no companion dogs. The limited breeder exclusions will not produce enough animals to meet the needs of families and the service industry.
- o Mandatory spay neutering (MSN) takes away the rights of citizens to make healthy decisions for their pets.
- o Spaying and neutering is major surgery – PETS CAN DIE from these procedures.
- o Spaying and neutering is irreversible.
- o Spaying and neutering at too early an age can cause growth deformities, urinary incontinence, leakage, and other lifelong problems.
- o Many of the MSN laws allow animal control to conduct a search of your property and seizure of your pets without a warrant if they think you might not be in compliance with the law.
- o Most of the proposed MSN laws are not budgeting for compliance, leaving the cities and counties to foot the bill.
- o Most of the proposed MSN laws are not budgeting for low-cost spay/neuter clinics leaving people to face potentially huge vet bills or forcing them to relinquish their pets.
- o Lack of responsible breeders will force people who want a certain breed to go out of state or buy off the internet where they have no idea the health, care, socialization, or temperament of the animal they are getting.
- o Gang bangers and drug dealers are not going to become law-abiding citizens and neuter / spay their pit bulls.

Animal rights activist are touting MSN as a way to reduce shelter populations.

- o Most of shelter costs are fixed expenses and will never go away.
- o Many shelters currently do not have enough adoptable dogs and are importing them, along with rabies and other diseases, from other states and countries. (Animal shelters count these as intakes.)
- o Many owners leave dogs at shelters because they do not want to make the decision to have older dogs with health problems or dogs with temperament issues euthanized. (These count as intakes and add to the euthanasia statistics.)
- o Shelters in cities with MSN have higher euthanasia statistics, higher operating costs and lower licensing than surrounding areas.
- o Educating pet owners to voluntarily alter their pets or be responsible for their unaltered pets IS WORKING. Shelter intakes have declined dramatically in the last 20 years. (This is why there is a shortage of adoptable dogs in some areas.)

**Before supporting this legislation, read the small print!**