

APPENDIX

Standardized Shelter Reporting

Proposal: Implement an improved shelter reporting system with "Animal Count" categories that are defined and standardized.

Effect on Overpopulation: A problem cannot be solved until it has been objectively and accurately defined.

Under the current system it is not possible to determine the number of animals euthanized solely as a result of the shelter's policy (for example killing all unweaned kittens or all "pit bulls"). Nor is it possible to determine how many animals had a "chance" at adoption but became ill and then were euthanized. It is not possible to determine how many animals had a "chance" at adoption but were simply not selected. It is not possible to determine how many animals were euthanized for no other reason than lack of cage space. It is not possible to determine the original source (shelter, pet store, or breeder) of the animals that were euthanized.

These inadequacies obstruct serious efforts to plan rational strategies directed towards specific, defined needs. Failure to improve the reporting system would prohibit accurate monitoring of all efforts aimed at reducing the number of healthy animals euthanized.

Implementation: Develop a new shelter reporting system with "Animal Count" categories that are defined and standardized. Would require cooperation from the shelter and a commitment to allocate attention and resources to defining the problem.

Costs: Expenses could be justified by the potential for ultimate achievement of pet population control.

LITTER REGISTRATION

Proposal: Recommend that litter registration not be implemented.

Effect on Overpopulation: We believe that litter registration would promote the inhumane and cruel abandonment of unwanted litters by irresponsible owners. These uncaring, unknowing people will simply dump their unwanted litters rather than pay a registration fee. Litter registration will not affect the "just one litter" situation since the requirement does not prevent the birth it only provides a disincentive for surrendering the unwanted kittens to the Animal Control Facility. Litter registration will result in more cats and kittens being turned loose. These will eventually reproduce and **ADD** to the reservoir of unwanted animals.

The number of litters produced in planned mating programs is significantly smaller than the number of random bred litters. Governmental regulations directed at the small number of responsible fanciers will not significantly reduce the number of animals euthanized.

Cost: Administrative and enforcement expenditures would be considerable if Litter Registration were implemented. Costs would not be justified for a program with so little potential for effectiveness and compliance. Could actually add to the cost for Animal Control in the future because abandoned animals will reproduce and create more animals in need of shelter services.

Proposal: Recommend that breeder licensing NOT be implemented.

Effects on Overpopulation: 75% of the animals euthanized are cats according to the PHS 1989-1990 Annual Animal Count. DOG BREEDERS DO NOT CONTRIBUTE TO THE CAT POPULATION. Fewer than 2% of the cats euthanized were thought to be purebred according to testimony given by PHS at the public hearings last fall. PEDIGREE CAT BREEDERS DO NOT CAUSE THE ACCIDENTAL BIRTHS OF RANDOM BRED CATS.

75% of the cats entered the shelter as stray. Fewer than 2% were reclaimed by owners. UNOWNED CATS CAN'T BUY BREEDER LICENSES.

Puppies are seldom available for adoption according to the PHS report to the Technical Committee on May 15, 1991. This was confirmed by Pets In Need representative on Technical Committee on June 5, 1991. Potential adopters must sometimes wait several months for a puppy to become available. The total number of dogs entering the shelter (stray and surrender) has been steadily declining; this is verified by the PHS Annual Animal Count. The fact that dogs are euthanized for behavior, health or age reasons does not mean that there are too many PUPPIES born in San Mateo County. Reducing the availability of puppies in the face of a continuing strong demand would restrict the right of responsible citizens to own a puppy since THERE IS NO SURPLUS OF PUPPIES in our community. Furthermore, limiting the source of healthy, socialized puppies will shift the demand from responsible local breeders to puppy mill outlets.

Breeder Licensing will not directly affect the number of animals euthanized since the number of pedigree animals in relation to the total is insignificant. There is evidence (published Am J Vet Res, Vol 45, No. 2, February 1984) to indicate that animals obtained from breeders are less likely to be allowed to roam than animals adopted from shelters. Breeder licensing will not address the uncaring, irresponsible people who allow their pets to roam and to accidentally mate. Governmental regulation aimed at solving an identified problem ("overpopulation") must be rationally related to the cause of that problem (random bred animals). Breeder licensing fails to meet this elementary test.

In as much as Breeder Licensing was suggested **ONLY** as a way of exempting breeders from Mandatory N/S at the direction of the Board of Supervisors, it will not be necessary if a program other than Mandatory N/S of all dogs and cats is enacted.

Costs: Administrative and enforcement expenditures would be considerable if Breeder Licensing were implemented. Costs would not be justified for a program with so little potential for effectiveness and compliance.