

Huntington Beach, CA, April 16, 2007 City Council Minutes:

H. City Council/Redevelopment Agency Items

H-1a. (City Council) Submitted By Councilmember Keith Bohr – Direct Staff to Research the Costs and Other Issues Associated With Adopting a Mandatory Spay, Neuter and Microchip Ordinance

Communication from Councilmember Keith Bohr transmitting the following

Statement of Issue:

Millions of dogs and cats are killed every year because not enough homes exist for these pets. Many of these are puppies and kittens -- the offspring of family pets. Pet overpopulation is a preventable problem that everyone can help solve simply by spaying or neutering his or her pets. Spaying and neutering is a safe surgical procedure performed by veterinarians that prevents animals from reproducing.

Orange County, as contracted to do on behalf of 21 Orange County cities, picked up 29,690 stray animals in 2006. Despite commendable efforts by the county to reunite these animals with their owners, or to adopt them out to new owners, the county still had to euthanize more than 12,000 dogs and cats in 2006.

The most cost effective method of reducing these numbers is to have the county and all cities adopt a "Mandatory Spay, Neuter and Microchip Ordinance," which will dramatically reduce the number of cats and dogs produced and would increase the number of lost pets returned to their owners. That would minimize the numbers that are ultimately euthanized. In an effort to minimize the number of unwanted animals in Orange County and Huntington Beach specifically, I am making the following recommendation.

Recommended Action: Motion to:

Direct city staff to research the costs and other issues associated with adopting a Mandatory Spay, Neuter and Microchip Ordinance similar to the one adopted by the county of Los Angeles in 2006. It is my ultimate goal to adopt such an ordinance in Huntington Beach. However, I do understand that there are a number of issues, policies, procedures, and costs that must be determined before such an ordinance can be successfully drafted, adopted, and implemented.