

***COMMUNITY
ANIMAL
TASK
FORCE***

***CONSENSUS
REPORT***

OCTOBER 4, 1991

REVISED 10/02/91

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September 25, 1991

To: The Department of Community Services
County of San Mateo, San Mateo, California

From: Members of the San Mateo
Community Animal Task Force

Introduction

There are too many dogs and cats born each year in the United States; too many for the number of homes available to care for them. Across the nation, millions of dogs and cats are classified as "unwanted" or "surplus" and local animal shelters are coping daily with the abhorrent task of "controlling" pet overpopulation through euthanasia.

San Mateo County is no exception. Far too many unwanted animals find their way each year to the Peninsula Humane Society and other animal organizations. Some of them are placed in new homes, most of them are destroyed.

Euthanasia is not an ethical, cost effective or acceptable solution to pet overpopulation. The acceptance of this measure is by default, and only because we have failed to identify and address the root causes of the problem.

In addition, large numbers of stray and feral dogs and cats also create numerous public health and safety hazards. This may include disease transmission, traffic hazards, physical damage to persons or property, and impact on native wildlife populations.

To achieve the elimination or substantial reduction of the need for euthanasia of unwanted dogs and cats in San Mateo County, the following root causes need to be recognized and addressed:

- (1) Irresponsible Pet Ownership
- (2) Unplanned Animal Reproduction
- (3) Inadequate Public Information and Education

We believe that the attached proposal represents a workable and reasonable approach for alleviating the problems of pet overpopulation and the need for animal destruction.

1. GOAL: To eliminate or substantially reduce euthanasia of unwanted dogs and cats in San Mateo County.
2. OBJECTIVES: The goal may be achieved by addressing the following objectives:
 - (1) Increase the number of responsible pet owners
 - (2) Reduce the births of unwanted dogs and cats
 - (3) Develop a comprehensive community education program
 - (4) Consider administrative efficiency and enforcement feasibility.

Success will depend on widespread and continuing community education and outreach, as well as feasible and reasonable administration and enforcement.

OBJECTIVE 1: Increase the number of responsible pet owners.

a. Increase the availability of good homes.

1. Modify limit laws, enforce through complaints, resolve through mediation.

- [1] Provide for a supplemental permit "Fancier's" permit process which would enable owners to keep more dogs and/or cats than the current limit laws allow. Use complaint driven enforcement, reactive up to ten animals.
(Tech. Comm. Proposal 4 - 07/03/91)

For more than ten animals, existing kennel permit regulations would apply (County Ord. 3400, Div.111, Part Two, Chapter 12).

2. Establish a program that promotes and encourages landlords to allow pets in rental units.

b. Increase the number of adoptions.

1. Adoption outreach and promotion.

- [1] Recommend that the Peninsula Humane Society and other area animal shelters develop a more aggressive ongoing adoption approach, which may include, but is not limited to:-
- Sponsored multi-media advertisement
 - Special promotional adoption campaigns
 - Satellite adoption facilities
 - Increase attractiveness of animals, and
 - Review current adoption procedures.

c. Reduce number of surrenders/unsuccesful placements.

1. Through public information and education.

[1] Require that any business, organization or individual conducting pet related activities must make available to their clients, free of charge, information on pet care and county laws pertaining to dogs and cats.
(Tech. Comm. Proposal 15 - 07/24/91)

[2] Develop a course on Responsible Pet Ownership that could be offered through community colleges/ adult education which would serve as a "traffic school" of responsible pet ownership. This could be an option in lieu of fines for certain animal infractions.
(Tech. Comm. Proposal 15 - 07/24/91)

[3] Develop, publish and distribute a "Guide to Animal Services", similar to the current "Guide to Community Resources."
(Tech. Comm. Proposal 15 - 07/24/91)

d. Reduce the number of impulse acquisitions of pets.

1. Prohibit "sidewalk" sales, giveaways of dogs and cats in public places (other than those sponsored by recognized organizations).

2. Require display of permit number in advertisements for unaltered dogs and cats.
(Tech. Comm. Proposal 16 - 07/31/91)

3. Regulate pet store sales of all domestic companion animals.

[1] Request that all pet stores sell pet dogs and cats with written spay/neuter contracts. Request utilization of limited registration and not for breeding provisions when possible on registration papers.
(Tech. Comm. Proposal 3 - 06/26/91)

[2] Require that pet stores disclose to buyers of dogs and cats the mature size of animal, expected cost of food, licensing, grooming and normal veterinary care.
(Tech. Comm. Proposal 3 - 06/26/91)

- [3] Request microchipping of all dogs and cats upon sale by pet stores.
(Tech. Comm. Proposal 3 - 06/26/91)

4. Through public information and education.

- [1] Cooperative public education programs.

e. Increase the number of stray pets returned to owners.

1. Licensing incentives.

- [1] Encourage establishing discounts for licensed dogs for obedience training, veterinary care and other appropriate areas.
(Tech. Comm. Proposal 12 - 07/17/91)

- [2] Establish license discounts for recognized rescue organizations.

2. Cat Licensing

- [2] Require that any cat owned and harbored in San Mateo County over the age of four months be licensed and vaccinated against rabies. License is defined as a tag issued by the County or a microchip implant.
(Tech. Comm. Proposal 7 - 07/10/91)

OBJECTIVE 2: Reduce the births of unwanted dogs and cats

a. Provide for breeding permits.

1. License and permit categories are proposed as follows:

[1] License.

* General unaltered license

This is a non breeding license and requires that the owner acknowledge and sign a statement of agreement that the animal will not be used for breeding without obtaining a Class I Permit.

* Altered license

Note: License and permit fees should be kept separate in order to use the permit fees to fund the programs suggested in the proposal.

[2] Breeding Permit (must be obtained in addition to the unaltered license .)

* Class I Permit. This is a breeding permit for owners who desire to breed the animal. It is required that the permit holder acknowledge and sign a Statement of minimum standards approved by the Division of Animal Control in addition to adhering to the following Rules and Regulations:

- All breeders shall keep accurate and complete records of breedings, litters, pedigrees and owner's names, addresses and phone numbers.
- All offspring sold by the breeder shall be a minimum of seven weeks of age.
- All offspring, except those purpose bred or sold for breeding purposes, will be sold on a written spay neuter agreement signed by both the new owner and the breeder.
- Offspring will be sold on a contract that ensures the breeder is contacted whenever an owner can no longer keep such offspring or at anytime in the animal's life. The breeder will either assist in the placement of, or accept the return of said animal.

Permit is subject to revocation for violation of ordinance.

(Tech. Comm. Proposal 16 - 07/31/91)

[3] Cattery Permit.

* Recommend that San Mateo County Ordinance 3400, Division III, Part Two, Chapter 12, be amended to allow for Cattery Requirements/Permit.

[4] Fanciers Permit.

- * The Fanciers permit is for owners between existing limit laws and up to 10 animals. Animals are required to be licensed and maintained in accordance with the appropriate laws.

(Tech. Comm. Proposal 4 - 07/03/91)

b. Stray dogs and outdoor cats

1. Increase impoundment fines and mandate spay/neuter for excessive restraint violations.

- [1] Require mandatory spay/neuter and increased fines for impounded stray dogs and cats that consider both license status and frequency of impounds. Include an appeal mechanism and Responsible Pet Ownership School in lieu of certain fines.

(Tech. Comm. Proposal 2 - 6/26/91)

(Tech. Comm. Proposal 9 - 7/10/91)

2. Outdoor Cats

- [1] Anyone who owns or harbors outdoor cats on their property, whether ownership is claimed or not, shall spay or neuter such free-roaming cats.

(Tech. Comm. Proposal 5 - 07/03/91)

- [2] Harbor to be defined as: To provide care, protection and sustenance with the intention or expectation of creating a permanent arrangement, as opposed to a temporary arrangement.

c. Increase the number of altered animals

1. Expand the incentives for spay and neuter.

- [1] Establish an Animal Population Trust Fund to help offset cost of spay/neuter, provide for spay/neuter coupons or discounts for participating veterinarians and clinics and public education activities.

(Tech. Comm. Proposal 14 - 07/17/91)

- [2] Expand the differential between altered and unaltered animals for impound fees.

2. Feral Cat Program.

- [1] Recommend that studies be conducted on the impact of stray, outside cat populations on the ecology.
- [2] Encourage Feral Cat groups to trap, spay/neuter, license and vaccinate for rabies, if required, and accept ongoing responsibility for feral cats. Euthanize those who are unlikely to have adequate opportunity for shelter or sustenance, and those that cannot live beyond this time without undue suffering.
(Tech. Comm. Proposal 6 - 07/10/91)

3. Request animal welfare agencies alter adopted animals before leaving the agency.

- [1] Request animal welfare agencies with spay/neuter clinics to alter adopted animals, four months of age and older, before leaving the agency.
(Tech. Comm. Proposal 1 - 6/26/91)
- [2] Require that all unaltered animals adopted from an animal welfare agency be required under a written contract to be spayed or neutered when of appropriate age. Failure to comply will be an infraction, subject to dismissal with proof of altering.
(Tech. Comm. Proposal 1 - 06/26/91)

OBJECTIVE 3: Develop a comprehensive community education program.

- [1] Mandate by County ordinance that any business, organization or individuals conducting pet related activities must make available to their clients information on all current County animal laws, responsible pet ownership and animal care. Materials will be provided by the County.
(Tech. Comm. Proposal 15 - 07/24/91)
- [2] Develop, publish and distribute a Guide to Animal Services.
(Tech. Comm. Proposal 15 - 07/24/91)
- [3] Develop an ongoing public information campaign on cats and cat ownership.
(Tech. Comm. Proposal 15 - 07/24/91)

- [4] Mandate by County ordinance that no person shall intentionally release an animal from any confinement, restraint or vehicle unless such release is necessary to the health and or/safety of said animal. Violation of this section shall be an misdemeanor. Shall exempt peace officers, animal control officers and humane officers while in the performance of their duties.
(Tech. Comm. Proposal 17- 08/07/91)

OBJECTIVE 4: Consider administrative efficiency and enforcement feasibility.

- a. Use the current licensing program as much as possible.
- b. Address revenue issues to cover costs.

- [1] Create a Trust Fund advisory committee to make recommendations concerning the raising and distribution of funds and other resources for animal services.
(Tech. Comm. Proposal 14 - 07/17/91)

- c. Uniform enforcement county wide should be possible.
(consider urban and rural differences).

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NOTE: The foregoing references and incorporates options from all proposals presented by the Community Animal Task Force Technical Committee except:

Proposal 10 - 07/17/91 - Differential Licensing
Proposal 13 - 07/17/91 - Litter Registration

SCHEDULE OF FEES AND CHARGES

(A) LICENSE FEES

[1] DOGS

Unaltered License \$20.00

Altered License \$10.00

Senior Discount - 50%

[2] CATS

Unaltered License \$10.00

Altered License \$ 5.00

(B) PERMIT FEES

Class I (Unaltered, Breeding) \$30.00 PER ANIMAL

Fanciers Permit \$10.00 PER HOUSEHOLD

*note: Permit fees will not increase at a rate greater than the CPI.

License fees and permit fees are renewable annually.

(C) REDEMPTION FEES- for impounded roaming animals

	Altered	Unaltered	Spay/Neuter
First Offense			
Licensed	\$20.00	\$40.00	-
Unlicensed	30.00	60.00 -	\$30. refundable with proof of S/N
Second Offense			
Third Offense	\$60.00	\$80.00	Mandatory
	\$90.00	100.00	Mandatory

Responsible ownership school and an appeal mechanism is required.
Impounds cumulative for three years
(Tech. Comm. Proposal 2 - 06/26/91)

THE FOLLOWING COMMUNITY ANIMAL TASK FORCE MEMBERS SUPPORT THE
PRECEDING CONSENSUS REPORT:

KARIN ABE
Technical Committee
Breeder, Montara

MARY AIKEN *
Policy Committee
Breeder, Burlingame

CAROLINE BOYDELL *
Technical Committee
Pets In Need

PAUL DANA
Technical Committee
Environmental Health, SMCO

SHELLY FROST *
Technical Committee
Pets In Need

TRICIA GALLEGOS
Technical Committee
Peninsula Humane Society

LARRY HERBERT
Technical Committee
Veterinarian

STEVE HOLMSTROM
Policy Committee
Veterinarian

LYNN JORDAN
Technical Committee
Public Member, El Granada

KATHRYN KELLY *
Policy Committee
Pets In Need

JAMES MCHENRY
Policy Committee
Daly City P.D.

TIM MATHIESEN
Policy Committee
Breeder, Woodside

PAUL MILLER
Technical Committee
Peninsula Humane Society

LEON NIELSEN
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ROBIN RUNNEALS *
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Pacifica Animal Advisory Comm.

GAIL SPIEKER *
Technical Committee
Breed Rescue, Menlo Park

ROY STENMARK
Policy Committee
AKC Representative

DONNA VAILLANCOURT
Technical Committee
Community Svcs., SMCO

SHARON MONTTOOTH
Technical Committee
Public Member

* - denotes additional conditions as described on the following
page

Pet Overpopulation Proposal

Condition Statements

While we agree with the overall content of the proposal, we strongly urge you to include the following under any finalized ordinance:

That spay and neuter be required (i.e. mandatory) for all dogs and cats in San Mateo County, unless the appropriate permit and/or license is obtained as described in the proposal.

Kathryn Kelly, Shelly Frost, Caroline Boydell
Pets In Need

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We agree with the content of the proposal except pg. 9; Section C; and recommend mandatory spay neuter on the third offense.

Mary Aiken Gail Spieker
Breeder, Burlingame Breed Rescue, Menlo Park

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We agree with the content of the proposal and recommend that the programs replace the existing ordinance.

Robin Runneals
Pacifica Animal Advisory Comm.