

February 5, 2012

**Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee and
Economic Development and Technology Committee**

To: Chair Rosalyn Baker

Chair Carol Fukunaga

RE: SB 2504

Testimony in Opposition

Testifyer: Charlee D. C. Abrams

President, Hawaii Chinese Shar-Pei Club

Chair Baker and Chair Fukunaga and members of the committee:

Aloha, my name is Charlee Abrams, and I am a dog Breeder. I am President of the Hawaiian Chinese Shar-Pei Club, an affiliate of the American Kennel Club, the largest registry of pure bred dogs in America. I also breed and show Chinese Shar-Pei dogs and have been for more than 25 years. I speak in behalf of members of the Hawaiian Chinese Shar-Pei Club. Our membership consists of over 50 breeders, exhibitors and, owners throughout Hawaii.

As we all know, the importation of dogs and cats to the Hawaiian Islands is limited and strictly regulated. If all cats and dogs sold or given away must be sterilized, it calls into question where citizens of Hawaii will obtain future generation of pets! Not to mention, that every Hawaii resident who wishes to have the choice to own a whole dog or a cat to show or breed in future will be required to obtain it from outside the state!

SB 2504 would make lawbreakers of any person who sells, gives away, or exchanges an unsterilized dog under any circumstances! What is this about? Many breeders, myself included, have spent generations and years developing our blood lines, improving our breeds, enjoying our hobby and sharing it with

others. SB 2504 would allow us few options to introduce new bloodlines and create healthy expansion of our gene pools.

The American Kennel Club, and we Hawaii dog fanciers, oppose the concept of breeding bans or mandatory spay/neuter of purebred dogs. Instead, we support reasonable and enforceable laws that protect the welfare and health of purebred dogs and do not restrict the rights of breeders and owners who meet their responsibilities.

Likewise, we do not support the mandatory microchipping of all dogs and cats. While considered important and beneficial to many owners, not all choose to have their pets microchipped. Many other forms of pet identification are available, allowing pet owners many options. The State of Hawaii's import regulations, and all humane societies, demand microchipping of dogs and cats involved in their systems. Microchipping should remain optional to breeder's and pet owners.

HB 2504 further demands that sellers maintain records of sale for at least two years, and allow any police or humane agency to peruse them. In addition to requiring ten other requirements of sale, including lists of possible future genetic anomalies, the transfer of dogs and cats to new owners becomes not only over complicated, over costly, but also extremely restrictive, and in some cases all but impossible and unenforceable.

For the reasons stated above, we ask that SB 2504 be held

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

Sincerely,

Hawaiian Chinese Shar-Pei Club

Charlee D. C. Abrams

President

Testimony for CPN/EDT 2/7/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2504

Testifier position: Support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Ann Goody PhD

Organization: Three Ring Ranch

E-mail: animals@threeringranch.org

Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Testimony for CPN/EDT 2/7/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2504

Testifier position: Oppose

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Judith A. Brecka

Organization: Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club of America

E-mail: jbreckalaw@gmail.com

Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

Our breed has members who reside in the state of Hawaii and who will be affected by this bill. Our breed is relatively rare and this bill would eliminate breeding programs commenced by our club members.

February 6, 2012

Re: SB2504

Dear Senators,

We only became aware of this bill this morning and we hope that you will consider this email as part of your public testimony. For over 15 years we have been importing and selectively breeding working herding dogs (Border Collies and Australian Shepherds). We became aware of the very limited gene pool for these magnificent dogs when we purchased our first Border Collie in 1994. We have imported selected prize winning dogs from England and Australia to broaden the gene pool and make these very intelligent herding animals available to our state as working dogs for ranchers and as very special companions. Some of our dogs have been selected as rescue dogs due to their high level of intelligence and loyalty to their handlers. We limit our females to no more than 2 to 3 litters depending upon the circumstances. These animals cost us between \$2000 to \$4000 to land here in Hawaii. We operate at a deficit but are committed to bettering the breed here in Hawaii.

SB2504 would be devastating to our efforts to continue to better the breed and expand the gene pool for these particular animals. We clearly do not know the goal of this bill but am guessing that it is designed to target "puppy mills". While the effort is laudable, a blanket ban would certainly be devastating to responsible and selective breeders that we feel we are.

Aloha!

Gordon Inouye

P.O. Box 595

Papaikou, Hi. 96781

February 6, 2012

Dear Senate Members,

I oppose this bill. I strongly disagree that all dogs and cats should be sterilized. I believe that this bill was written with the intention of doing away with puppy mills. I agree that any breeder that mistreats their pet should be stopped and punished but I also believe that not every person that has a litter is a “puppy mill” and mistreats their animals. I don’t think that responsible owners or pet stores should be punished along with the irresponsible ones.

A lot more dogs and cats will end up at the humane society or on the streets if this bill is passed. There will be many people unable to keep their pets because of the cost of sterilization which mean more homeless animals. It will be even more difficult if the family has a whole litter of kittens or puppies to sterilize. Even if the family has the means to sterilize the whole litter are they going to be able to keep them until they’re old enough to be fixed at six months or a year?

I believe that anyone who mistreats their animals should be prosecuted but I think that bill 2504 is a violation of our rights as citizens of America. It should be the owner’s choice whether they have their pet sterilized or not.

Sincerely,
Brandy Baker

February 6, 2012

To: Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Members of Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee
Members of Economic Development and Technology Committee

From: Kaitlyn Grimm

RE: Support of SB2504: Relating to the sale of dogs and cats

Aloha! I am in support of SB2504, thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify.

Over population of stray cats and dogs is a nationwide issue that is starting to become resolved by implementing sterilization and microchips on animals, this is exactly what the bill wants to influence in our local pet stores. There is an estimated amount of more than 70 million stray cats and dogs in the U.S. In Hawaii alone from Dec 31, 2011 – Jan 2, 2012 the Hawaii Humane society received about 125 stray cats and dogs.

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals states that only 10% of the animals received by shelters are neutered and because so little of them are sterilized they believe that the average litter of strays for both cats and dogs is 4-6. Due to this the population of stray's increases and that is one reason why I agree with the bill to have all pet stores sterilize their animals prior to being sold.

I also agree to have every pet to be sold with a micro chip implant. According to the Hawaii Human Society a micro chip is just as important as a tag but it is more reliable because it's permanent.

Please pass SB2504.

Testimony for CPN/EDT 2/7/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2504

Testifier position: Oppose

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Tina Beatty

Organization: Individual

E-mail: tinabeatty@ymail.com

Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

I have raised and handled show dogs for over 30 years. I am a responsible person who does there best to do quality,limited , well thought breedings to preserve the pure bred dog. This bill is unjust to limit and punish well respected and reputable breeders who have and do good by preserving the pure bred fancy. Maybe focus and money should be spent on the population of irresponsible people with no conscience and humanity... Instead of taking it out on people who really care and are responsible . This bill is one-sided and plain UNFAIR.

Tina Beatty

Testimony for CPN/EDT 2/7/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2504

Testifier position: Oppose

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Richard Kutaka

Organization: Individual

E-mail: rkutaka@gmail.com

Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

I oppose SB2504 and SB2198.

Spay/neuter of immature dogs and cats can cause orthopedic disorders and other growth complications. It would be like performing a hysterectomy on a 10 year old girl before she fully matures.

I am for responsible pet ownership and responsible breeders that protect the health and welfare of purebred cats and dogs.

If this bill passes where will it lead to? Mandatory spay and neuter laws for other animals like pet livestocks, pet birds and fishes?

Reasonable and enforceable laws should be legislated without communist/socialist agendas.

Thank You,

Richard Kutaka

Testimony for CPN/EDT 2/7/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2504

Testifier position: Oppose

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Holly Greenwell

Organization: Individual

E-mail: greenwell1111@yahoo.com

Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

I vote NO on SB2504

Testimony for CPN/EDT 2/7/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2504

Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Laurella Pang
Organization: Individual
E-mail: relwoodk9s@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012
Comments:

Testimony for CPN/EDT 2/7/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2504

Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Douglas Choy
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mr-gntlmn@juno.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

I oppose this bill. I have been a pet owner all my life. While the intention to limit the amount of loose animals, or negate the effects of feral cats and dogs is good, I believe the bill is bordering on constitutional rights. Freedom of speech, freedom to bear arms, but not free to own an unsterilized pet? Responsibilities lie within the pet owners themselves. You could outlaw guns, but the only people who would have them are the outlaws. You could outlaw liquor, but that would drive the price up, and send drinking underground like during the prohibition days. Same for pets, this would increase the black market for unsterilized pets.

Who the heck thinks up these bills? Something more constructive would be to continue the spay/neuter program. I thought I heard that that was coming to a close? Offer large discounts to owners to have their pet sterilized, and form a relationship with their vet like when it was offered back in the 80's.

P.S. My father is a retired veterinarian who owned his private practice in the islands for over 40 years. He spoke out at a hearing AGAINST the watering down of the quarantine program years ago, and if he could, he would gladly speak for those animals who couldn't speak for themselves.

Testimony for CPN/EDT 2/7/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2504

Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Judy Sadoyama
Organization: Individual
E-mail: honuhale@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

Though I applaud the effort to streamline our pet population and to hamper the puppy mills, I do believe this will also adversely affect the legitimate breeders. Until we have a law that designates what constitutes a responsible

breeder, all this law will do is punish those of us who are responsible pet owners who do try to find legitimate breeders to obtain our pets from.

Testimony for CPN/EDT 2/7/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2504

Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jennifer Chiwa
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jenniferc@oha.org
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Testimony for CPN/EDT 2/7/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2504

Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Naomi Egami
Organization: Individual
E-mail: nomie_34@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

This bill will greatly reduce the number of homeless and abandoned animals in hawaii as well as in the already overcrowded shelters. Until people can take responsibility in "fixing" their pets, this kind of legislation must exist. I strongly urge you to pass SB2504.

Testimony for CPN/EDT 2/7/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2504

Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Dana Jones
Organization: Individual
E-mail: woolwahine@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Testimony for CPN/EDT 2/7/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2504

Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: betty fujinaka
Organization: Individual
E-mail: artsobedience@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

I believe this bill should specify pet shops and/or large unlicensed facilities that breed dogs for profit not the licensed purebred breeders and/or people who breed their pets once in a while and give them to their friends for a small fee or free.

Testimony for CPN/EDT 2/7/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2504
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: hollis ann stewart
Organization: Individual
E-mail: turtleandyellow@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Testimony for CPN/EDT 2/7/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2504
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kelli Tateyama
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kctateyama@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

I have two AKC registered yorkshire terriers. I LOVE this breed. Doing something this drastic is just asking for trouble. This bill would cause people to resort to unlawful practices..
I feel this bill would go AGAINST my personal rights as a pet owner in Hawaii!!!

Testimony for CPN/EDT 2/7/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2504
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kari Anderson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kariandrich@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012
Comments:

Testimony for CPN/EDT 2/7/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2504
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Cheri Larsen
Organization: Individual
E-mail: larsenr002@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

This bill would not only jeopardize responsible breeders, but pet owners as well who wish to have a purebred animal. I oppose mandatory spay/neuter. It is an unreasonable bill and restricts the rights of those breeders/owners that are responsible and care about their breed. Please vote no to this unfair and potentially devastating bill.

Testimony for CPN/EDT 2/7/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2504
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Winifred Nakatsu
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ran@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Testimony for CPN/EDT 2/7/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2504
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Renee Davis
Organization: Individual
E-mail: roundofappaws@sbcglobal.net
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

This is absolutely ludicrous. The end result would be no pets. Including that of the very useful service animals. Persons in need would have to ship in service animals at a great cost including the problematic quarantine. Most of these persons would be left disabled, without help and requiring higher level of assistance at a greater cost to the community and government.

Testimony for CPN/EDT 2/7/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2504
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ruth D. Merz
Organization: Individual Owner of Two Small Italian Greyhound Dogs Ages 15 and 10 Months Old
E-mail: rdmerz@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments on SB2504:

- * All animals need to be protected from abuse, neglect, and puppy mills, but responsible citizens should be able to adopt/purchase a reasonable number of purebred/mixed breed pets for their families too.
- * Breeders should be licensed to be able to keep their show quality purebred animals unaltered/intact, as well as have a way to find good homes for non-show quality family based pets from the litter.
- * Spaying and neutering costs should be reasonable for all cats and dogs, with an educational emphasis on spay/neuter benefits to the family, community, and the animal itself.
- * All animals should be micro-chipped and registered before sale/gifting, and all breeders (no matter how small their litters) should be licensed.
- * Breeders should be limited to having no more than a prescribed number of litters per year, and should be able to provide the written names and contact info for all animals sold or gifted, to help limit strays and abandoned pets.
- * The number of adult animals allowed to be kept by anyone/household at one time should be set, limited and enforced, giving leeway for the total number of newborn un-weaned puppies under 3 months of age, to a specific number.

And finally, mahalo for protecting these special pets in our lives, while ensuring that quality disease and defect free animals continue to be bred by responsible breeders for Hawaii's families.

This bill as written is insane. A bill is needed to prevent puppy mills and stray dogs and cats but not this one. This affects not only the irresponsible people but the responsible ones also. All breeders selling dogs/puppies or cats/kittens should be licensed and pay taxes no matter how small their amounts of litters. All dogs and cats should have chips implanted and be registered. Mixed breeds should be spayed or neutered at a reduced cost. Pet quality pure bred dogs may be neutered or spayed at a reduced cost by choice of breeder. Show quality dogs may remain intact and should not be neutered or spayed by mandate. They may be neutered or spayed at a reduced cost by choice of breeder.

There are responsible people living here...please keep that in mind

Thank you
Rona Adams

Testimony for CPN/EDT 2/7/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2504
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Judy K. Chow
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jchow@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

Please oppose this bill in its present form. I am the owner of three Shiba Inu and would like to extend the line of my purebred dogs. I obtained the mother from a reputable breeder in Australia and did research on breeding her with a local male (with AKC papers). She presented me with seven beautiful puppies, two of which I am currently showing and hope to eventually breed so that I can continue the bloodline. The other puppies were sold to "pet" homes and some were spayed and neutered. The choice was left up to the current owners.

I do not believe in breeding my dogs during all of their heat cycles. The females need to rest their bodies in between heat cycles. I am also very selective as to their potential mates.

If this bill passes in its present form, eventually there will be no dogs or cats to keep our families with companions. It has been proven that ownership of pets contribute to the health of humans. It is up to responsible breeders and owners of purebred or hybrid dogs or cats to control the population.

Testimony for CPN/EDT 2/7/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2504
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Robert Dolormente
Organization: Individual

E-mail: rdolormente@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Testimony for CPN/EDT 2/7/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2504
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Candie Mitchell
Organization: Individual
E-mail: candiemitchell@ca.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Testimony for CPN/EDT 2/7/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2504
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Susan Murphy
Organization: Individual
E-mail: havacasahavanese@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Testimony for CPN/EDT 2/7/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2504
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Mary Markl
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Ahimsamary99999@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

Please pass this so that is accountability. Also the sterilization is so important. So many people don't bother to get their adoptee sterilized and either their pet either gets pregnant or impregnates or gets lost or abandoned and a tragic cycle of homeless innocent beings get born with a horrible future, imagine if you were in their place. Please support humane laws for the sake of the innocent animals. Thank you.

Testimony for CPN/EDT 2/7/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2504

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sophia McNeil
Organization: Individual
E-mail: sophia@lilacville.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

This bill will effectively eliminate the legitimize breeding of registered cats. For years, CFA breeders have carefully practiced conservation to preserve endangered lines such as the Egyptian Mau, Scottish Fold, and American Shorthair. Hawaii already limits the feline gene pool through its quarantine program. This measure will further complicate that problem. Please vote 'no'.

Testimony for CPN/EDT 2/7/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2504

Conference room: 229

Testifier position: Support

Testifier will be present: Yes

Submitted by: Ginny Tiu

Organization: Individual

E-mail: g2@hokua.org

Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:



Hawaiian Humane Society

People for animals. Animals for people.

2700 Waiālae Avenue Honolulu, Hawaii 96826
808.946.2187 • hawaiianhumane.org

To: Honorable Chair Baker and Fukunaga
Vice-Chair Taniguchi and Wakai, and Committee Members

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Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and
Economic Development and Technology
February 7, 2012, 9:00 am, Room 229

Submitted by: Natalie Lukashevsky, Community Outreach Coordinator
Hawaiian Humane Society, nlukashevsky@hawaiianhumane.org

Date: February 6, 2012

**RE: Support SB2504;
Relating to the Sale of Dogs and Cats, with amendments**

Dear Honorable Chairs Baker and Fukunaga, Vice-Chairs Taniguchi and Wakai and Members,

The Hawaiian Humane Society supports the passage of this bill and supports the amendments proposed by Inga Gibson of the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) in her testimony presented today.

We would specifically ask the committee to take note of the proposed amendment as follows:

- Page 4, line 14, insert new (c) and add section -3(c) shall apply to humane societies, animal control, rescue or care organizations who provide animals for adoption. We would like the sterilization requirement to apply to all rescue organizations and other animal care groups who are already, and have for many years, been sterilizing animals prior to adoption. Sterilization is the only proven way to reduce pet overpopulation along with many health and behavior benefits to the animal.

We also would like to propose that the following portion of the bill be amended to include appropriate, legal language regarding identification of animals through proper channels (e.g. dog licensing in the City and County of Honolulu) as this is the only evidence of legal dog ownership in Honolulu.

- Section -2 Sale of dogs and cats, insert (b & c). (a) Pet sellers shall implant an identification microchip in a dog or cat prior to the sale or exchange of the dog or cat. Upon sale or exchange, the pet seller shall provide to the dog or cat owner the microchip registration information (b) and the owner shall register the dog/cat with the microchip provider. (c) the owner shall be required to acquire appropriate state/ county licensing for said animal.

Thank you for your consideration of this important measure. We ask for your support in helping to reduce pet overpopulation and promoting a more humane society.

My name is Libbie Belback My husband and I own the Pet Corner a pet store located in ward warehouse. We are a family run local business, offering pet supplies, small animals, and puppies for sale. We also host the Oahu SPCA's adoption animals in our store on a daily bases. I am here to submit testimony against Senate bill 2504 section 3.

We feel strongly against Senate bill 2504 section 3, along with several of our customers and neighbors that have signed our petition against the mandating of spaying or neutering of a cat or dog including kittens and puppies prior to sale to their new home. We feel it is unnecessary and not ethical to be forced into having these pets undergo a medical procedure especially to the puppies at such a young age which will occur if this bill is passed.

*Mandatory spay and neuter laws infringe on the right to privacy and on property rights.

*Animal owners, of these new pets purchased should be the ones that make the decision in consultation with their veterinarians, when the appropriate time should be to spay or neuter their pet. It should not be mandated that the persons wishing to purchase a pet should have that right taken away from them by having to purchase a pet that has already been sterilized. This law infringes on the personal rights to owning a pet.

*Research shows that spay or neutering causes urinary "spay incontinence" in 4-20% of female dogs. Incontinence in dog, and is one of the leading reasons for owner surrenders to shelters.

*There is also research studies that show in pedantic sterilization when the removal of hormones occur before sexual maturity happens it may play into a role of growth plate issues, bone, heart and kidney cancers, thyroid problems and adverse reactions to vaccinations.

*There is no overwhelming call for mandatory spay/neuter laws from animal health professionals because many of the proposed benefits simply cannot be substantiated.

*Responsible owners already know the benefit of spaying and neutering at the appropriate age that is recommended by their family's veterinarian and are already voluntarily having the procedure done. 88% of owned cats are spayed or neutered, and 78% of dogs owned are spayed or neutered.

*Also attempting to pass a bill that mandates all puppies sold thru a pet retail store have to be spayed and neutered prior to sale takes away the consumer's rights to own a pet that has been unsterilized. It also will force 8 week old puppies under anesthesia. The thought behind this type of bill is to help control the pet population and have consumers purchase directly from the breeder themselves. Unfortunately this line of thought is not always correct. By forcing the general public to obtain an unsterilized puppy from a different source other than an ethical pet store or breeder. It forces a lot of consumers to sometimes buy puppies from people that are unethical & that they find over the internet, or that they meet on the side of the road or in a grocery store parking lot. Often when these types of sales are made with puppies there is little more than a cell phone number given by the pet seller to the consumer. They have almost no recourse if something goes wrong with the puppy. We have heard of horror stories from our customers over the years from these type of sales. A pet store can help by providing an actual brick and mortar store. So if there is something

wrong with the puppy the consumer has someone they can hold accountable. Our store has always been there for our customer on that very rare instance something is wrong. We are there to help them and resolve any issue they may need help with. I feel that due to the irresponsible practices of a certain pet store on the island in both their practices of obtaining puppies and saleing their puppies to the public. They have given pet stores a bad name. Our store is proud to be of service to our customers and offer healthy puppies not from puppy mills. We are in support of puppy mill regulation and regulation of large scale breeders.

*Mandatory spay and neutering laws are a drastic overreach of government. They punish responsible pet owners & pet stores rather than targeting those who are irresponsible.

*Alternatives to mandatory spay/neuter laws should include education on spay and neutering by a pet store when a new puppy is purchased thru a store. Our store the pet corner has already done these practices. We have had great response with a high percentage of our customer's choosing to spay/neuter their pets when they and their veterinarian have decided together it was the correct time to do so.

According to the animal population control study commission, from the Minnesota legislature, for every dollar invested in municipally operated spay/neuter clinics, taxpayers will save \$18.72 in future animal control costs over a 10 year period.

*Our store would be in support of a spay and neuter fund that is created that all persons, corporations, entities that sales dogs, cats, puppies and kittens to the public pay a small registration fee per pet

sold. That money could then be directed into a fund that could be used to fund spay/neuter clinics and public education on pet care, spaying & neutering and life time pet ownership. We think this would be a lot more beneficial to the community then mandatory spay/neuter laws.

I thank you for your time & consideration in hearing my testimony

Long-Term Health Risks and Benefits Associated with Spay / Neuter in Dogs

Laura J. Sanborn, M.S.

May 14, 2007

Precis

At some point, most of us with an interest in dogs will have to consider whether or not to spay / neuter our pet. Tradition holds that the benefits of doing so at an early age outweigh the risks. Often, tradition holds sway in the decision-making process even after countervailing evidence has accumulated.

Ms Sanborn has reviewed the veterinary medical literature in an exhaustive and scholarly treatise, attempting to unravel the complexities of the subject. More than 50 peer-reviewed papers were examined to assess the health impacts of spay / neuter in female and male dogs, respectively. One cannot ignore the findings of increased risk from osteosarcoma, hemangiosarcoma, hypothyroidism, and other less frequently occurring diseases associated with neutering male dogs. It would be irresponsible of the veterinary profession and the pet owning community to fail to weigh the relative costs and benefits of neutering on the animal's health and well-being. The decision for females may be more complex, further emphasizing the need for individualized veterinary medical decisions, not standard operating procedures for all patients.

No sweeping generalizations are implied in this review. Rather, the author asks us to consider all the health and disease information available as individual animals are evaluated. Then, the best decisions should be made accounting for gender, age, breed, and even the specific conditions under which the long-term care, housing and training of the animal will occur.

This important review will help veterinary medical care providers as well as pet owners make informed decisions. Who could ask for more?

Larry S. Katz, PhD
Associate Professor and Chair
Animal Sciences
Rutgers University
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

INTRODUCTION

Dog owners in America are frequently advised to spay/neuter their dogs for health reasons. A number of health benefits are cited, yet evidence is usually not cited to support the alleged health benefits.

When discussing the health impacts of spay/neuter, health risks are often not mentioned. At times, some risks are mentioned, but the most severe risks usually are not.

This article is an attempt to summarize the long-term health risks and benefits associated with spay/neuter in dogs that can be found in the veterinary medical literature. This article will not discuss the impact of spay/neuter on population control, or the impact of spay/neuter on behavior.

Nearly all of the health risks and benefits summarized in this article are findings from retrospective epidemiological research studies of dogs, which examine potential associations by looking backwards in time. A few are from prospective research studies, which examine potential associations by looking forward in time.

SUMMARY

An objective reading of the veterinary medical literature reveals a complex situation with respect to the long-term health risks and benefits associated with spay/neuter in dogs. The evidence shows that spay/neuter

correlates with both positive AND adverse health effects in dogs. It also suggests how much we really do not yet understand about this subject.

On balance, it appears that no compelling case can be made for neutering most male dogs, especially immature male dogs, in order to prevent future health problems. The number of health problems associated with neutering may exceed the associated health benefits in most cases.

On the positive side, neutering male dogs

- eliminates the small risk (probably <1%) of dying from testicular cancer
- reduces the risk of non-cancerous prostate disorders
- reduces the risk of perianal fistulas
- may possibly reduce the risk of diabetes (data inconclusive)

On the negative side, neutering male dogs

- if done before 1 year of age, significantly increases the risk of osteosarcoma (bone cancer); this is a common cancer in medium/large and larger breeds with a poor prognosis.
- increases the risk of cardiac hemangiosarcoma by a factor of 1.6
- triples the risk of hypothyroidism
- increases the risk of progressive geriatric cognitive impairment
- triples the risk of obesity, a common health problem in dogs with many associated health problems
- quadruples the small risk (<0.6%) of prostate cancer
- doubles the small risk (<1%) of urinary tract cancers
- increases the risk of orthopedic disorders
- increases the risk of adverse reactions to vaccinations

For female dogs, the situation is more complex. The number of health benefits associated with spaying may exceed the associated health problems in some (not all) cases. On balance, whether spaying improves the odds of overall good health or degrades them probably depends on the age of the female dog and the relative risk of various diseases in the different breeds.

On the positive side, spaying female dogs

- if done before 2.5 years of age, greatly reduces the risk of mammary tumors, the most common malignant tumors in female dogs
- nearly eliminates the risk of pyometra, which otherwise would affect about 23% of intact female dogs; pyometra kills about 1% of intact female dogs
- reduces the risk of perianal fistulas
- removes the very small risk ($\leq 0.5\%$) from uterine, cervical, and ovarian tumors

On the negative side, spaying female dogs

- if done before 1 year of age, significantly increases the risk of osteosarcoma (bone cancer); this is a common cancer in larger breeds with a poor prognosis
- increases the risk of splenic hemangiosarcoma by a factor of 2.2 and cardiac hemangiosarcoma by a factor of >5; this is a common cancer and major cause of death in some breeds
- triples the risk of hypothyroidism
- increases the risk of obesity by a factor of 1.6-2, a common health problem in dogs with many associated health problems
- causes urinary "spay incontinence" in 4-20% of female dogs
- increases the risk of persistent or recurring urinary tract infections by a factor of 3-4
- increases the risk of recessed vulva, vaginal dermatitis, and vaginitis, especially for female dogs spayed before puberty
- doubles the small risk (<1%) of urinary tract tumors
- increases the risk of orthopedic disorders
- increases the risk of adverse reactions to vaccinations

One thing is clear – much of the spay/neuter information that is available to the public is unbalanced and contains claims that are exaggerated or unsupported by evidence. Rather than helping to educate pet

owners, much of it has contributed to common misunderstandings about the health risks and benefits associated of spay/neuter in dogs.

The traditional spay/neuter age of six months as well as the modern practice of pediatric spay/neuter appear to predispose dogs to health risks that could otherwise be avoided by waiting until the dog is physically mature, or perhaps in the case of many male dogs, foregoing it altogether unless medically necessary.

The balance of long-term health risks and benefits of spay/neuter will vary from one dog to the next. Breed, age, and gender are variables that must be taken into consideration in conjunction with non-medical factors for each individual dog. Across-the-board recommendations for all pet dogs do not appear to be supportable from findings in the veterinary medical literature.

FINDINGS FROM STUDIES

This section summarizes the diseases or conditions that have been studied with respect to spay/neuter in dogs.

Complications from Spay/Neuter Surgery

All surgery incurs some risk of complications, including adverse reactions to anesthesia, hemorrhage, inflammation, infection, etc. Complications include only immediate and near term impacts that are clearly linked to the surgery, not to longer term impacts that can only be assessed by research studies.

At one veterinary teaching hospital where complications were tracked, the rates of intraoperative, postoperative and total complications were 6.3%, 14.1% and 20.6%, respectively as a result of spaying female dogs¹. Other studies found a rate of total complications from spaying of 17.7%² and 23%³. A study of Canadian veterinary private practitioners found complication rates of 22% and 19% for spaying female dogs and neutering male dogs, respectively⁴.

Serious complications such as infections, abscesses, rupture of the surgical wound, and chewed out sutures were reported at a 1- 4% frequency, with spay and castration surgeries accounting for 90% and 10% of these complications, respectively.⁴

The death rate due to complications from spay/neuter is low, at around 0.1%².

Prostate Cancer

Much of the spay/neuter information available to the public asserts that neutering will reduce or eliminate the risk that male dogs develop prostate cancer. This would not be an unreasonable assumption, given that prostate cancer in humans is linked to testosterone. But the evidence in dogs does not support this claim. In fact, the strongest evidence suggests just the opposite.

There have been several conflicting epidemiological studies over the years that found either an increased risk or a decreased risk of prostate cancer in neutered dogs. These studies did not utilize control populations, rendering these results at best difficult to interpret. This may partially explain the conflicting results.

More recently, two retrospective studies were conducted that did utilize control populations. One of these studies involved a dog population in Europe⁵ and the other involved a dog population in America⁶. Both studies found that neutered male dogs have a four times *higher* risk of prostate cancer than intact dogs.

Based on their results, the researchers suggest a cause-and-effect relationship: "this suggests that castration does not initiate the development of prostatic carcinoma in the dog, but does favor tumor progression"⁵ and also "Our study found that most canine prostate cancers are of ductal/urothelial origin....The relatively low incidence of prostate cancer in intact dogs may suggest that testicular hormones

are in fact protective against ductal/urothelial prostatic carcinoma, or may have indirect effects on cancer development by changing the environment in the prostate.”⁶

This needs to be put in perspective. Unlike the situation in humans, prostate cancer is uncommon in dogs. Given an incidence of prostate cancer in dogs of less than 0.6% from necropsy studies⁷, it is difficult to see that the risk of prostate cancer should factor heavily into most neutering decisions. There is evidence for an increased risk of prostate cancer in at least one breed (Bouvier)s⁵, though very little data so far to guide us in regards to other breeds.

Testicular Cancer

Since the testicles are removed with neutering, castration removes any risk of testicular cancer (assuming the castration is done before cancer develops). This needs to be compared to the risk of testicular cancer in intact dogs.

Testicular tumors are not uncommon in older intact dogs, with a reported incidence of 7%⁸. However, the prognosis for treating testicular tumors is very good owing to a low rate of metastasis⁹, so testicular cancer is an uncommon cause of death in intact dogs. For example, in a Purdue University breed health survey of Golden Retrievers¹⁰, deaths due to testicular cancer were sufficiently infrequent that they did not appear on list of significant causes of “Years of Potential Life Lost for Veterinary Confirmed Cause of Death” even though 40% of GR males were intact. Furthermore, the GRs who were treated for testicular tumors had a 90.9% cure rate. This agrees well with other work that found 6-14% rates of metastasis for testicular tumors in dogs¹¹.

The high cure rate of testicular tumors combined with their frequency suggests that fewer than 1% of intact male dogs will die of testicular cancer.

In summary, though it may be the most common reason why many advocate neutering young male dogs, the risk from life threatening testicular cancer is sufficiently low that neutering most male dogs to prevent it is difficult to justify.

An exception might be bilateral or unilateral cryptorchids, as testicles that are retained in the abdomen are 13.6 times more likely to develop tumors than descended testicles¹² and it is also more difficult to detect tumors in undescended testicles by routine physical examination.

Osteosarcoma (Bone Cancer)

A multi-breed case-control study of the risk factors for osteosarcoma found that spay/neutered dogs (males or females) had twice the risk of developing osteosarcoma as did intact dogs¹³.

This risk was further studied in Rottweilers, a breed with a relatively high risk of osteosarcoma. This retrospective cohort study broke the risk down by age at spay/neuter, and found that the elevated risk of osteosarcoma is associated with spay/neuter of young dogs¹⁴. Rottweilers spayed/neutered before one year of age were 3.8 (males) or 3.1 (females) times more likely to develop osteosarcoma than intact dogs. Indeed, the combination of breed risk and early spay/neuter meant that Rottweilers spayed/neutered before one year of age had a 28.4% (males) and 25.1% (females) risk of developing osteosarcoma. These results are consistent with the earlier multi-breed study¹³ but have an advantage of assessing risk as a function of age at neuter. A logical conclusion derived from combining the findings of these two studies is that spay/neuter of dogs before 1 year of age is associated with a significantly increased risk of osteosarcoma.

The researchers suggest a cause-and-effect relationship, as sex hormones are known to influence the maintenance of skeletal structure and mass, and also because their findings showed an inverse relationship between time of exposure to sex hormones and risk of osteosarcoma.¹⁴

The risk of osteosarcoma increases with increasing breed size and especially height¹³. It is a common cause of death in medium/large, large, and giant breeds. Osteosarcoma is the third most common cause of death in Golden Retrievers¹⁰ and is even more common in larger breeds¹³.

Given the poor prognosis of osteosarcoma and its frequency in many breeds, spay/neuter of immature dogs in the medium/large, large, and giant breeds is apparently associated with a significant and elevated risk of death due to osteosarcoma.

Mammary Cancer (Breast Cancer)

Mammary tumors are by far the most common tumors in intact female dogs, constituting some 53% of all malignant tumors in female dogs in a study of dogs in Norway¹⁵ where spaying is much less common than in the USA.

50-60% of mammary tumors are malignant, for which there is a significant risk of metastasis¹⁶. Mammary tumors in dogs have been found to have estrogen receptors¹⁷, and the published research¹⁸ shows that the relative risk (odds ratio) that a female will develop mammary cancer compared to the risk in intact females is dependent on how many estrus cycles she experiences:

# of estrus cycles before spay	Odds Ratio
None	0.005
1	0.08
2 or more	0.26
Intact	1.00

The same data when categorized differently showed that the relative risk (odds ratio) that females will develop mammary cancer compared to the risk in intact females indicated that:

Age at Spaying	Odds Ratio
≤ 29 months	0.06
≥ 30 months	0.40 (not statistically significant at the P<0.05 level)
Intact	1.00

Please note that these are RELATIVE risks. This study has been referenced elsewhere many times but the results have often been misrepresented as absolute risks.

A similar reduction in breast cancer risk was found for women under the age of 40 who lost their estrogen production due to "artificial menopause"¹⁹ and breast cancer in humans is known to be estrogen activated.

Mammary cancer was found to be the 10th most common cause of years of lost life in Golden Retrievers, even though 86% of female GRs were spayed, at a median age of 3.4 yrs¹⁰. Considering that the female subset accounts for almost all mammary cancer cases, it probably would rank at about the 5th most common cause of years of lost life in female GRs. It would rank higher still if more female GRs had been kept intact up to 30 months of age.

Boxers, cocker spaniels, English Springer spaniels, and dachshunds are breeds at high risk of mammary tumors¹⁵. A population of mostly intact female Boxers was found to have a 40% chance of developing mammary cancer between the ages of 6-12 years of age¹⁵. There are some indications that purebred dogs may be at higher risk than mixed breed dogs, and purebred dogs with high inbreeding coefficients may be at higher risk than those with low inbreeding coefficients²⁰. More investigation is required to determine if these are significant.

In summary, spaying female dogs significantly reduces the risk of mammary cancer (a common cancer), and the fewer estrus cycles experienced at least up to 30 months of age, the lower the risk will be.

Female Reproductive Tract Cancer (Uterine, Cervical, and Ovarian Cancers)

Uterine/cervical tumors are rare in dogs, constituting just 0.3% of tumors in dogs²¹.

Spaying will remove the risk of ovarian tumors, but the risk is only 0.5%²².

While spaying will remove the risk of reproductive tract tumors, it is unlikely that surgery can be justified to prevent the risks of uterine, cervical, and ovarian cancers as the risks are so low.

Urinary Tract Cancer (Bladder and Urethra Cancers)

An age-matched retrospective study found that spay/neuter dogs were two times more likely to develop lower urinary tract tumors (bladder or urethra) compared to intact dogs²³. These tumors are nearly always malignant, but are infrequent, accounting for less than 1% of canine tumors. So this risk is unlikely to weigh heavily on spay/neuter decisions.

Airedales, Beagles, and Scottish Terriers are at elevated risk for urinary tract cancer while German Shepherds have a lower than average risk²³.

Hemangiosarcoma

Hemangiosarcoma is a common cancer in dogs. It is a major cause of death in some breeds, such as Salukis, French Bulldogs, Irish Water Spaniels, Flat Coated Retrievers, Golden Retrievers, Boxers, Afghan Hounds, English Setters, Scottish Terriers, Boston Terriers, Bulldogs, and German Shepherd Dogs²⁴.

In an age-matched case controlled study, spayed females were found to have a 2.2 times higher risk of splenic hemangiosarcoma compared to intact females²⁴.

A retrospective study of cardiac hemangiosarcoma risk factors found a >5 times greater risk in spayed female dogs compared to intact female dogs and a 1.6 times higher risk in neutered male dogs compared to intact male dogs.²⁵ The authors suggest a protective effect of sex hormones against hemangiosarcoma, especially in females.

In breeds where hemangiosarcoma is an important cause of death, the increased risk associated with spay/neuter is likely one that should factor into decisions on whether or when to sterilize a dog.

Hypothyroidism

Spay/neuter in dogs was found to be correlated with a three fold increased risk of hypothyroidism compared to intact dogs.²⁶

The researchers suggest a cause-and-effect relationship: They wrote: "More important [than the mild direct impact on thyroid function] in the association between [spaying and] neutering and hypothyroidism may be the effect of sex hormones on the immune system. Castration increases the severity of autoimmune thyroiditis in mice" which may explain the link between spay/neuter and hypothyroidism in dogs.

Hypothyroidism in dogs causes obesity, lethargy, hair loss, and reproductive abnormalities.²⁷

The lifetime risk of hypothyroidism in breed health surveys was found to be 1 in 4 in Golden Retrievers¹⁰, 1 in 3 in Akitas²⁸, and 1 in 13 in Great Danes²⁹.

Obesity

Owing to changes in metabolism, spay/neuter dogs are more likely to be overweight or obese than intact dogs. One study found a two fold increased risk of obesity in spayed females compared to intact females³⁰. Another study found that spay/neuter dogs were 1.6 (females) or 3.0 (males) times more likely to be obese than intact dogs, and 1.2 (females) or 1.5 (males) times more likely to be overweight than intact dogs³¹.

A survey study of veterinary practices in the UK found that 21% of dogs were obese.³⁰

Being obese and/or overweight is associated with a host of health problems in dogs. Overweight dogs are more likely to be diagnosed with hyperadrenocorticism, ruptured cruciate ligament, hypothyroidism, lower urinary tract disease, and oral disease³². Obese dogs are more likely to be diagnosed with hypothyroidism, diabetes mellitus, pancreatitis, ruptured cruciate ligament, and neoplasia (tumors)³².

Diabetes

Some data indicate that neutering doubles the risk of diabetes in male dogs, but other data showed no significant change in diabetes risk with neutering³³. In the same studies, no association was found between spaying and the risk of diabetes.

Adverse Vaccine Reactions

A retrospective cohort study of adverse vaccine reactions in dogs was conducted, which included allergic reactions, hives, anaphylaxis, cardiac arrest, cardiovascular shock, and sudden death. Adverse reactions were 30% more likely in spayed females than intact females, and 27% more likely in neutered males than intact males³⁴.

The investigators discuss possible cause-and-effect mechanisms for this finding, including the roles that sex hormones play in body's ability to mount an immune response to vaccination.³⁴

Toy breeds and smaller breeds are at elevated risk of adverse vaccine reactions, as are Boxers, English Bulldogs, Lhasa Apsos, Weimaraners, American Eskimo Dogs, Golden Retrievers, Basset Hounds, Welsh Corgis, Siberian Huskies, Great Danes, Labrador Retrievers, Doberman Pinschers, American Pit Bull Terriers, and Akitas.³⁴ Mixed breed dogs were found to be at lower risk, and the authors suggest genetic heterogeneity (hybrid vigor) as the cause.

Urogenital Disorders

Urinary incontinence is common in spayed female dogs, which can occur soon after spay surgery or after a delay of up to several years. The incidence rate in various studies is 4-20%^{35, 36, 37} for spayed females compared to only 0.3% in intact females³⁸. Urinary incontinence is so strongly linked to spaying that it is commonly called "spay incontinence" and is caused by urethral sphincter incompetence³⁹, though the biological mechanism is unknown. Most (but not all) cases of urinary incontinence respond to medical treatment, and in many cases this treatment needs to be continued for the duration of the dog's life.⁴⁰

A retrospective study found that persistent or recurring urinary tract (bladder) infections (UTIs) were 3-4 times more likely in spayed female dogs than in intact females⁴¹. Another retrospective study found that female dogs spayed before 5 ½ months of age were 2.76 times more likely to develop UTIs compared to those spayed after 5 ½ months of age.⁴²

Depending on the age of surgery, spaying causes abnormal development of the external genitalia. Spayed females were found to have an increased risk of recessed vulva, vaginal dermatitis, vaginitis, and UTIs.⁴³ The risk is higher still for female dogs spayed before puberty.⁴³

Pyometra (Infection of the Uterus)

Pet insurance data in Sweden (where spaying is very uncommon) found that 23% of all female dogs developed pyometra before 10 years of age⁴⁴. Bernese Mountain dogs, Rottweilers, rough-haired Collies, Cavalier King Charles Spaniels and Golden Retrievers were found to be high risk breeds⁴⁴. Female dogs that have not whelped puppies are at elevated risk for pyometra⁴⁵. Rarely, spayed female dogs can develop "stump pyometra" related to incomplete removal of the uterus.

Pyometra can usually be treated surgically or medically, but 4% of pyometra cases led to death⁴⁴. Combined with the incidence of pyometra, this suggests that about 1% of intact female dogs will die from pyometra.

Perianal Fistulas

Male dogs are twice as likely to develop perianal fistulas as females, and spay/neutered dogs have a decreased risk compared to intact dogs⁴⁶.

German Shepherd Dogs and Irish Setters are more likely to develop perianal fistulas than are other breeds.⁴⁶

Non-cancerous Disorders of the Prostate Gland

The incidence of benign prostatic hypertrophy (BPH, enlarged prostate) increases with age in intact male dogs, and occurs in more than 80% of intact male dogs older than the age of 5 years⁴⁷. Most cases of BPH cause no problems, but in some cases the dog will have difficulty defecating or urinating.

Neutering will prevent BPH. If neutering is done after the prostate has become enlarged, the enlarged prostate will shrink relatively quickly.

BPH is linked to other problems of the prostate gland, including infections, abscesses, and cysts, which can sometimes have serious consequences.

Orthopedic Disorders

In a study of beagles, surgical removal of the ovaries (as happens in spaying) caused an increase in the rate of remodeling of the ilium (pelvic bone)⁴⁸, suggesting an increased risk of hip dysplasia with spaying. Spaying was also found to cause a net loss of bone mass in the spine⁴⁹.

Spay/neuter of immature dogs delays the closure of the growth plates in bones that are still growing, causing those bones to end up significantly longer than in intact dogs or those spay/neutered after maturity⁵⁰. Since the growth plates in various bones close at different times, spay/neuter that is done after some growth plates have closed but before other growth plates have closed might result in a dog with unnatural proportions, possibly impacting performance and long term durability of the joints.

Spay/neuter is associated with a two fold increased risk of cranial cruciate ligament rupture⁵¹. Perhaps this is associated with the increased risk of obesity³⁰.

Spay/neuter before 5 ½ months of age is associated with a 70% increased aged-adjusted risk of hip dysplasia compared to dogs spayed/neutered after 5 ½ months of age, though there were some indications that the former may have had a lower severity manifestation of the disease⁴². The researchers suggest "it is possible that the increase in bone length that results from early-age gonadectomy results in changes in joint conformation, which could lead to a diagnosis of hip dysplasia."

In a breed health survey study of Airedales, spay/neuter dogs were significantly more likely to suffer hip dysplasia as well as “any musculoskeletal disorder”, compared to intact dogs⁵², however possible confounding factors were not controlled for, such as the possibility that some dogs might have been spayed/neutered because they had hip dysplasia or other musculoskeletal disorders.

Compared to intact dogs, another study found that dogs neutered six months prior to a diagnosis of hip dysplasia were 1.5 times as likely to develop clinical hip dysplasia.⁵³

Compared to intact dogs, spayed/neutered dogs were found to have a 3.1 fold higher risk of patellar luxation.⁵⁴

Geriatric Cognitive Impairment

Neutered male dogs and spayed female dogs are at increased risk of progressing from mild to severe geriatric cognitive impairment compared to intact male dogs⁵⁵. There weren't enough intact geriatric females available for the study to determine their risk.

Geriatric cognitive impairment includes disorientation in the house or outdoors, changes in social interactions with human family members, loss of house training, and changes in the sleep-wake cycle⁵⁵.

The investigators state “This finding is in line with current research on the neuro-protective roles of testosterone and estrogen at the cellular level and the role of estrogen in preventing Alzheimer's disease in human females. One would predict that estrogens would have a similar protective role in the sexually intact female dogs; unfortunately too few sexually intact female dogs were available for inclusion in the present study to test the hypothesis”⁵⁵

CONCLUSIONS

An objective reading of the veterinary medical literature reveals a complex situation with respect to the long-term health risks and benefits associated with spay/neuter in dogs. The evidence shows that spay/neuter correlates with both positive AND adverse health effects in dogs. It also suggests how much we really do not yet understand about this subject.

On balance, it appears that no compelling case can be made for neutering most male dogs to prevent future health problems, especially immature male dogs. The number of health problems associated with neutering may exceed the associated health benefits in most cases.

For female dogs, the situation is more complex. The number of health benefits associated with spaying may exceed the associated health problems in many (not all) cases. On balance, whether spaying improves the odds of overall good health or degrades them probably depends on the age of the dog and the relative risk of various diseases in the different breeds.

The traditional spay/neuter age of six months as well as the modern practice of pediatric spay/neuter appear to predispose dogs to health risks that could otherwise be avoided by waiting until the dog is physically mature, or perhaps in the case of many male dogs, foregoing it altogether unless medically necessary.

The balance of long-term health risks and benefits of spay/neuter will vary from one dog to the next. Breed, age, and gender are variables that must be taken into consideration in conjunction with non-medical factors for each individual dog. Across-the-board recommendations for all dogs do not appear to be supportable from findings in the veterinary medical literature.

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LATE

Dear Senators and Representatives,

Thank you for your diligent work in the 2011 Session. We look forward to working with you in 2012.

Regarding HB243; Sterilization before Sale at Pet Retailers, the veterinary profession is strongly supportive of measures which improve pet health and welfare.

The comments made by the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council in the 5 May on-line issue of Veterinary Practice News do not reflect any position by professional veterinarians.

- As you know, the amending a bill as it passes through your hands is not at all unusual.
- Spay/Neuter should be encouraged, AND mandated in certain situations. I can testify to the higher than "usual" number of poor quality pets that are sold through pet stores. And, the buyers are usually poorly informed, or misled, on purpose.
- Quality pets who can be bred should be acquired through responsible breeders, not pet stores.
- There are few negative consequences that can arise from early spay/neuter. There has been much data collected and studies prove that benefits far outweigh risks. I have performed early spay/neuter on hundreds of pet dogs and cats and am proud to report NO ADVERSE EFFECTS.
- We do agree that the health care decisions are best made by the owner and the veterinarian together. We are concerned when decisions are made solely on a for profit basis.

Please feel free to contact me for any further clarification and guidance.
I look forward to working with you all next year.

Respectfully yours,

Eric Ako DVM

Past Chair, Board of Veterinary Examiners, State of Hawaii
Executive Vice President, Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association
Board Member, Hawaiian Humane Society

LATE

My name is Hollis Stewart. I am a veterinarian and I support this bill.

The overpopulation of pets in Hawaii is appalling. I moved here four years ago. I see feral cats every day, not one or two cats. But groups of ten or more behind grocery stores, in school play yards, etc. I believe there are few people not aware of the feral cat problem.

I also see puppies for sale in stores and on the street. Our county shelter and other animal shelters are at maxed capacity, yet people keep breeding and selling animals. Puppies tend to sell because they are cute. They are often given away or abandoned after the new owner realizes they are a lot of work.

Anyone can look at craigslist and see that there are litters of puppies for sale everyday. Some more expensive than others. Selling dogs is also another way to make easy money.

Pet stores do little to ensure a forever home for the animal. The animal is a product that loses its value as it ages. Reputable breeders are quite selective with who is able to own the animal. Reputable breeders also often insist that the puppy/kitten is sterilized so that genes that are not optimal are not passed on.

Some breeders may be against this bill. Most of the "breeders" on island do not breed to achieve a high quality animal. I have seen many "purebred" dogs and cats that do not meet AKC or UKC standards. I have seen many "purebred" animals come to see me due to genetic health problems, hip dysplasia, allergies, neurologic disorders, gastrointestinal issues, etc. I have had patients whose new owners were aware that the animal's parents were siblings and purchase the animal anyway. This is not responsible breeding. This not responsible purchasing.

Only one in ten animals ever find a forever home. The rest are given away or moved around and will eventually end up at a shelter. A cat can live up to 20 years, a dog 16 or more. I do not think that when someone buys a puppy or kitten from a pet store, they are thinking of the next 15-20 years.

The sterilization procedure for animals can be performed with no complications at a younger age. As a previous shelter veterinarian, I have performed thousands of spay/neuter procedures. If an animal is not healthy enough for surgery, it should not be for sale. No reputable breeders would part with their litters at younger than eight weeks old or in poor health. There is also an oral contraceptive that should be available in the near future.

There are many healthy, gorgeous, amazing animals waiting for homes in the overflowing shelters. One should choose an animal based on personality and lifestyle, not looks. They are not art.

It concerns me that people who say they love animals, have them breed against their will, make give birth and sell their children for money. If you think that Hawaii needs more puppies and kittens, please visit the shelters and think again.

Sincerely,

Hollis Stewart, DVM and a proud owner of rescue animals including a tortoise.



LATE

Improving the quality of lives of pets and their people.

Testimony from
Alicia Maluafiti, President, Poi Dogs & Popoki

Comments on SB 2504 – Relating to Sale of Dogs and Cats

The Senate Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection
and Economic Development and Technology
Tuesday, February 7, 2012 - Room 229, 9:00 a.m.

Aloha Chairs Baker and Fukunaga, Vice Chairs Taniguchi and Wakai and members of the Committee,

My name is Alicia Maluafiti and I am the President of Poi Dogs & Popoki (PDP), a local nonprofit helping people and their pets with the cost of caring for their pets. I am also the former Director of Community Relations for the Hawaiian Humane Society and the founder and former president of the Oahu SPCA. PDP offers comments on SB 2504.

We appreciate a number of the bills introduced this legislative session to address animal welfare issues and strongly believe that SB 2504 is a step in the right direction to reduce the unnecessary euthanasia of Hawaii's dogs and cats due to pet overpopulation. There are a few things we would like to address:

- We believe "Seller" should apply to anyone that sells more than one litter of puppies per year. It shouldn't matter if they own or operate a kennel or pet shop because some people sell on the internet. We recommend deleting this reference.
- We'd like to see a definition for animal welfare organizations that offer adoptions because we should be setting the standard by sterilizing and microchipping our pets and providing information to families – especially military families that have to show some kind of proof to take their dogs onto base. PDP recently completed adoption of 12 rescued puppies and each family received a record that includes most of the information being mandated in this bill.
- Because all of our animals are spayed/neutered, microchipped, dewormed, and receive first shots, there is no additional burden to provide the information required in this bill. Our feeling is that if nonprofit animal welfare organizations are able to comply with the administrative and fiscal requirements of the bill, then it should not be any additional burden to for profit businesses that will simply require the consumer to pay the additional fees.

LATE

TO: Honorable Chair Baker and Fukunaga, Vice-Chair Taniguchi and Wakai, and Committee Members

**Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and Economic Development and Technology
Tuesday, February 7, 9:00am, Room 229**

RE: Testimony in OPPOSITION of SB2504; Relating to the Sale of Dogs and Cats

Submitted by: Lynn Muramaru, Kapolei, HI 96707, 808-672-9876

I am an American Kennel Club judge and a local dog owner. I exhibit my dogs in American Kennel Club dog shows and I am a member of the American Miniature Schnauzer Club, Border Terrier Club of America, Border Terrier Club of So. California, Miniature Schnauzer Club of So. California, and president of Terriers In Paradise-Hawaii. I am also a licensed social worker in the State of Hawaii.

I oppose this bill because of problematic provisions that include, but are not limited to:

- The definition of "pet seller" includes any person who sells pets to the public.
- It would be unlawful for a "pet seller" to sell or give away an unsterilized cat or dog. **This would include any person who sells, gives away, or exchanges an unsterilized dog under any circumstances.**
- Responsible breeders could be limited to breeding dogs currently in their possession, **leaving them with few options to introduce new bloodlines and create healthy expansion of their gene pools.**
- The definition of "pet seller" excludes humane societies, animal control, rescue and care organizations, thereby exempting such organizations from the provisions of the bill.
- "A document stating that the dog or cat has no known diseases or illnesses or describing any known diseases or illnesses of the dog or cat or congenital or hereditary conditions that may adversely affect the health of the dog or cat at the time of sale or exchange or is likely to the future." As a dedicated and ethical breeder, I screen breeding stock for hereditary conditions prior to breeding according to the guidelines set forth by the national breed clubs. I do not believe that it is possible for anyone to 100% comply with this section of the bill.

This bill is a misguided attempt to punish the responsible majority because of the irresponsible minority. Why not pass legislation that actually punishes the wrongdoer?

If this bill passes, where will future puppies come from? Not the law abiding owners, who will have sterilized dogs. Like anything else that has been made illegal or highly regulated, the future puppies will come from underground breeders. Puppies will be sold in a back alley and the consumer will never know if the seller was reputable or where the puppy came from.

More public education is needed on how to purchase pets. How many animals wind up at shelters because of impulse buys? The puppy for Christmas who is abandoned by February for example.

How many people start off trying to buy an animal from a reputable breeder, get turned down because the breeder did not feel the animal was a good fit for the prospective buyer, and then they buy from pet shops where no questions are asked as long as one has the money?

How many times have I educated new owners of dogs I have not bred on how to care for their new puppy? How many dogs have I personally taken in and rehomed that others have bred? Too many to list here but I continue to spend my own time answering calls and emails for information because I believe that educating the public is key.

LATE

To

The Honorable members of the Senate

From

Anu Iyer

PO Box 1042, Pearl City, HI 96782

Subj : Support of SB2504

Esteemed members,

I whole heartedly support SB2504 for the following reasons

- 1) There is already a massive overpopulation of pets in the State of Hawaii. Most of it is due to irresponsible pet owners who neglect to have their pets fixed. This gives rise to inbreeding and a host of other problems.
- 2) Spay/Neuter is the ONLY way to humanely control pet overpopulation. Shelters are already overburdened with the task of taking in and caring for so many unwanted animals. Many friendly and intelligent animals are euthanized because of the shelter's inability to keep up with the constant intake.
- 3) Spaying and neutering before releasing sold animals will drastically eliminate backyard breeding. This is a cruel practice where a single dog is forced to produce litter after litter to enable the owner to sell puppies that come with no paperwork and no health guarantee.
- 4) I especially support the provision to force sellers to provide the breeder information. Many puppies currently come from puppy mills within and outside USA. These puppies come with many health problems including kidney disease, hip dysplasia etc. Providing breeder information forces the seller to make ethical choices regarding who their supplier is.

I would like to end with a quote from Gandhi.

"The greatness of a society and its moral progress is judged by how it treats its weakest most defenseless members"

I urge you to enact all necessary legislation to protect these gentle creatures that give us their unconditional love and ask for nothing in return.

Aloha and Mahalo,

Anu Iyer

LATE

February 2, 2012

The Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker
Member, Hawaii State Senate District 5
Chair of the Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 230
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Senate Bill 2504 (RELATING TO THE SALE OF DOGS AND CATS) – OPPOSE

Dear Senator Baker:

On behalf of my clients and myself, I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 2504, which would require pet sellers to implant an identification microchip in a dog or cat prior to sale or exchange and to provide specific written documentation regarding each dog or cat sold. **And prohibits "ALL" pet sellers from selling an unsterilized dog or unsterilized cat.**

This measure raises a number of issues that make it a flawed choice to address the control of the dog and cat population on Oahu.

I feel that the first part of the bill-requiring a identification microchip and specific written documentation is a important part of maintaining a controlled, happy and healthy dog and cat population on Oahu. **But to require "ALL" pet sellers to sterilize "ALL" dogs and cats prior to sale no matter what the age is flawed for the following reasons:**

1-If this bill passes I fear the pet trade will go underground and not be in the open where we can monitor the sales of pets. This bill is flawed because you could supposedly "give away" animals and circumvent the law, which promotes back yard breeding and bartering them away. Yet what will happen to responsible breeders and everyday people who take great care of all the puppy's they have and require puppy sterilization for unsuitable puppies according to the AKC requirements. They will not be able to sell unsterilized puppies who can continue the strong lineage that we need in all breeds of dogs. This bill will not change behavior in any positive way.

2- If this bill passes I fear for the health ramifications for sterilizing ALL pets before 6 months. Although the HHS is able to spay and neuter at 6 weeks, it doesn't make it feasible for every veterinarian and or breeder to follow in their footsteps. For some puppies or kittens, it is not safe for them to be spayed or neutered before 6 months of age. I don't think it is a Pet store or breeder's responsibility to spay and neuter before the age of 8 weeks. Puppies ideally should not be placed in a new home until 8 weeks old, and should not be unduly stressed in the early years of development. Intuitively there are negative effects of early spay and neutering. Just think about what their bodies need as they develop. By design hormones guide our growth and development. Hormones also sustain us throughout our lives. Too much or too little hormones can cause clinical signs that we as veterinarians treat every day. It has also been shown that athletic dogs will compete to a higher level for a longer period of time if they are intact. Automatically spaying and neutering all pets will hinder any athletic quests that owners may pursue with their pets.

3-If this bill passes I fear it will be a great waste of money to enforce. Enforcement of this will be a nightmare and who will be responsible to monitor this new rule? We cannot even enforce the noise law which is expensive. Spaying and neutering hasn't decreased the over population of pets either. The HHS has been spaying and neutering puppies and kittens at 6- 8 weeks for the past 15-20 years. We still have an over population of dogs and cats, the numbers have not budged. It is the stray cat population that really needs our attention. Having said that, I am still in favor of spending money on education and spaying and neutering. We are not looking at the big picture. Early spay and neutering is just a small part of a bigger problem. If we choose to make early spay and neutering the norm, it will not fix the bigger problem. This bill is just a distraction. Pet stores and breeders are not the problem, and they should not be targeted. We as a culture need to be educated.

It is for these reasons that as a Veterinarian of over 20 years on Oahu, I must respectfully OPPOSE SB 2504.

Thank you so much for your time and continuous hard work to make Hawaii a better place to live and support businesses that strives to protect the health and welfare of all animals in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Pauline Koreyasu, D.V.M.

Although I strongly support the humane treatment of animals, I do not support this measure. My reasons are as follows:

1. Some folks, maybe most, want to get a puppy and raise it. With Hawaii's quarantine laws, the youngest animal that can be brought from the mainland is about 9 months old. This is a young dog, but not a puppy, which is usually weaned at 6-8 weeks. I don't believe it is right to sterilize at so young an age, and neither do most pet store owners I've talked to. Therefore, puppies will no longer be available.
2. These same laws prevent mainland puppy mills from sending their dogs here, with the high cost of vaccination and shipping (\$1000+). The problems on the mainland are not automatically our problems.
3. Pet Stores actually offer the best place to educate the public on the need for spaying & neutering, which I strongly support. I just don't want it to be mandatory. Pet store owners I know are also strongly pro-adoption and often support various rescue shelters with adoption days and collection tins.
4. Local pet store owners know who they buy from, and they are careful about it. They buy from the same families every year or so, and are invested in the well-being of the animal and its health. People who buy dogs from the pet stores are paying \$700-1000 on average, and like the comfort of having someone who knows dogs guide them. And they expect to be able to buy pets in pet stores.
5. With over 200,000 dogs on Oahu, and ownership rising, the number sold in pet stores is a small percentage of the new dogs that are born and imported every year.

I do not believe that this will significantly reduce the unwanted animal population in Hawaii and unfairly singles out the pet stores. Thank you.

John Harmon

Island Dog Magazine

Dawn Secord
P O Box 2767
Chino Hills, CA 91709

LATE

February 6, 2012

Dear Publicly Elected Official:

I am a Hawaii property owner and currently a resident of California who is very concerned about animal legislation, particularly SB2504. I support programs that encourage spaying and neutering of pets, but I oppose mandating it.

Please read this letter from the California Department of Finance opposing SB 250:
http://www.dof.ca.gov/Legislative_Analyses/LIS_PDF/09/SB-250-20090714021846PM-SB00250.pdf

The proponents of mandatory sterilization laws claim that they can save taxpayers money, but experience shows that just the opposite is true. Animal control costs doubled in Santa Cruz County, California after they passed a mandatory spay/neuter ordinance. SB2504 would increase animal control costs that the taxpayers must pay.

California's severe recession has left millions of families struggling to pay the mortgage and put food on the table. Many pet owners will be forced to relinquish their pets to shelters as they can neither afford the sterilization surgery mandated, nor the fines imposed for this failure.

The California Department of Finance opposes mandatory spay / neuter legislation because it would increase costs to the state's taxpayers. This would be fallout from the increase in euthanasias in California's animal shelters if such a law were enacted.

Experience across the Country is that mandatory spay/neuter laws like SB2504 are a failure. Dog deaths in the parts of San Mateo County covered by a mandatory sterilization ordinance increased by 126%, cat deaths increased by 86%, while both decreased in the city of San Mateo which was not covered by the ordinance.

My husband and I purchased real estate in the Hawaiian Ocean View estates on the big island with intentions of retiring there. We have owned Irish Setters since 1984 and in those 28 years have only bred one litter of puppies. However, we do want to be able to breed dogs in the future if we choose. If SB2504 goes into effect, without hesitation, we will be selling our property in Hawaii and NEVER retiring there.

I hope I can count on you to oppose SB2504.

Sincerely,

Dawn Secord
909-393-1210

Testimony for CPN/EDT 2/7/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2504

LATE

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Rachel Huff-Wagenborg
Organization: Individual
E-mail: rachelhw@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi and members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Wakai and members of the Committee on Economic Development and Technology:

Thank you for hearing SB2504. I support the intent of this measure and the amendments recommended by the Humane Society of the United States. Eliminating the sale of unsterilized pets by certain pet sellers will help address the issue of pet overpopulation, a serious problem in Hawaii. The amendments offered will promote responsible breeders, protect consumers and improve the lives of animals in Hawaii.

- Microchip - Requiring microchipping is an important component to this measure. Microchipping is a simple procedure that increases the chances of reuniting families with their lost or stolen animals. Currently, animals adopted through shelters are microchipped and animals travelling into the state must be microchipped.

- Sterilization - Spaying and neutering is an effective method of controlling the pet population. According to the American Veterinary Medical Association, "spaying and neutering helps control dog and cat populations." It also has long-term health benefits for the animals and improves behavior.

Additionally, the documentation this bill requires pet sellers to provide will empower consumers with important information about their potential companion animal, enabling them to make educated decisions before purchasing a pet.

I stand behind the Humane Society of the United States in support of SB2504, to protect and care for Hawaii's pets.

Thank you for you time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Rachel Huff-Wagenborg

Testimony for CPN/EDT 2/7/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2504

LATE

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Vicky D.
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Augustlily@live.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

I totally oppose bill SB2504!!! Petshops won't be petshops without what is considered to be our pets, dogs and cats. Where would we get them otherwise? And...to force a spay or neuter of our pets???!!! Why isn't there a bill on "spaying and neutering" humans that are producing way too many children increasing costs in hawaii and homelessness situations even more. Spend that money and time regulating them instead of this Bill. I think this bill is against mine and the multitude of people I know rights. I've seen the news on what happened with the waimanalo puppy mill and know that was terrible but to link all petshops with them is very wrong. Please keep our petshops with pets and our rights our rights throw out Bill SB2504!!!!

Testimony for CPN/EDT 2/7/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2504

LATE

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Alan h. Miyahira
Organization: Arts obedience
E-mail: amiyahira001@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/7/2012

Comments:

What happened with the waimanalo puppy mill cannot be confused with responsible breeders. I have been going to obedience and agility events for the 8 years and I can assure you these breeders are the most responsible people I know. The committee needs to look at this bill very carefully before making such a harsh vote. These animals (dogs) do not in my opinion, end up in shelters. In fact, the breeder will take back their dogs and find a suitable home for beloved family pet lines if for some reason their new owners can no longer care for them. Please vote no on this bill and make the time to attend these events. You will get to meet quality animal lovers get a better perspective on what lives you will impact. For your information, I own a mix breed dog and would not accept any amount of money to give her up. Yours Truly, Alan Miyahira

Testimony for CPN/EDT 2/7/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2504

LATE

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Vivian S. Toellner
Organization: Hui Pono Holoholona
E-mail: viviansuet@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

Aloha, Hui Pono Holoholona 501c3 animal nonprofit, exists because of the terrible animal overpopulation Hawaii suffers. On one hand to allow the unregulated breeding of dogs & cats, while using taxpayer money to euthanize animals on the other hand is so terrible. This measure would require that pet sellers disclose critical health information to the purchaser and the DOG OR CAT BE SPAYED OR NEUTERED PRIOR TO SALE—the only way to reduce pet overpopulation and euthanasia rates humanely! This bill would not impact responsible breeders who would never sell their offspring to a pet store and who already provide this information to the purchaser. Over 1,000 health dogs & cats each month are disposed of on the Island of Hawaii each and every month per HIHS stats. Many thousands more are never turned in and live sorrowful short lives of malnutrition, illness and abuse. Don't Shop Adopt. We do not need to breed. Many shelter animals are pure breeds. Please show Aloha to the animals of Hawaii. Mahalo.



LATE PuppymillRescue

501 (c) 3 non profit since 1998

What is a Puppy Mill?

"Puppy Mills", also known as "commercial breeders" in the eyes of the government, breed thousands of puppies a year for sale to pet shops across the country.

In a world of "pregnancy for profit," most of these dogs are forced to live their entire, sometimes very short lives, in dark warehouses . . . in tiny, crowded, and indescribably filthy conditions. Females are bred continuously until they die. Between pregnancies, hundreds of dogs compete for attention and food - their bony bodies a testament to inadequate food and water, substandard housing, insufficient exercise and infrequent, if any, veterinary care. Puppies are taken away from their mothers as young as four weeks of age, packed several to a crate, with little food, water, or ventilation and transported to pet stores across the country.

Many times the puppies arrive at the pet stores malnourished or ill; some never make it at all. The people who buy these puppies think they are taking home a healthy, well adjusted companion animal. But sadly, many times they discover they have purchased a dog that has a personality problem, disease, or genetic defect - caused by over breeding, inbreeding, or the unsanitary, squalid conditions at the puppy mill.

Several puppy mill/commercial breeder facilities that are not the filthy norm. The dogs live in fairly clean areas, kennel runs and some even in the house. This does not sound like a typical mill now does it? It is though. It is, because these dogs are bred every time they come into season without doing any genetic testing and they are not even necessarily bred to the same breed.

These dogs may not live several crammed into a wire rabbit cage, may get groomed or may even sleep on someone's bed doesn't change the fact that they are bred every single season until their little bodies are failing.

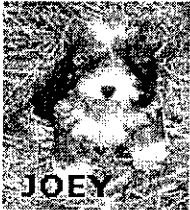
Bottom line...a puppy mill, or, to be politically correct, commercial breeder, is in business to crank out as many puppies as they can to sell to pet stores, flea markets, on the side of the road, individual ads in the paper and now through internet classified ads.

What is a Puppy Mill?

<http://www.prisonersofgreed.org/>

Hundreds of thousands of puppies are raised each year in puppy mills.

Mills are distinguished by their cramped, crude, filthy conditions and the constant breeding of unhealthy and



JOEY

Joey the editor gives you the bare bones latest on Puppy Mill Busts.



A commercial kennel owner in New York destroyed 93 dogs using a hose connected to a farm engine and pumping carbon monoxide into a makeshift "gas chamber."

Donate to put up more billboards



Thank You

I need a PAL



Donate

Donate by PayPal or check

LATE

Puppies are taken from their mother when they are 5 to 8 weeks old and sold to brokers who pack them in crates for resale to pet stores all over the country.

The puppies are shipped by truck or plane and often without adequate food, water, ventilation or shelter.

Many of the puppies do not survive the trip.

Innocent families buy the puppies only to find that the puppy is very ill or has genetic or emotional problems. Often the puppies die of disease. Many other have medical problems that cost thousands of dollars. And many have emotional problems because they have not been properly socialized in the mills. Don't bring this misery into your home.

Many of the 4000 federally licensed breeding kennels have substandard conditions.

Approximately 3,500 petstores in the United States sell puppies. They sell approximately 500,000 thousand puppies a year. It is estimated that the puppy industry in Missouri is valued at 40 million dollars a year. The puppy industry in one county in Pennsylvania, Lancaster, is valued at 4 million dollars a year.

There are seven states that are known as puppymill states because they have the majority of the puppymills in the country. They are: Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Pennsylvania.

There is federal law, the Animal Welfare Act, and many states have laws that purport to regulate puppymills but the fact is that those laws are rarely enforced.

Our research has shown that 98% of the puppies sold in petstores come from facilities that we consider to be puppymills. Petstores often tell customers that their puppies come from local breeders or quality breeders. Don't believe them, ask to see the paperwork and find out where the puppies really come from. We even heard about a sign in a Massachusetts petstore that said their puppies were lovingly

LATE

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Frank De Giacomo
Organization: Individual
E-mail: fdegiac@juno.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

Honolulu had a problem with The Hawaiian "Humane" Society handing out unsterilized purebreds to it's friends. The Council passed a bill to require that they be required to sterilize all animals before they transfer them to anyone.

I strongly oppose a law which would undue the Honolulu ordinances.

Sec. 7-4.3

(a) (b)

Impounding.

Any dog, while being a stray, shall be seized and impounded by the animal control contractor or any other officer authorized by law and shall be disposed of in accordance with the provisions of HRS Chapter 143.... Any impounded dog shall be spayed or neutered by the animal control contractor prior to its adoption unless a veterinarian certifies that the dog is too sick or injured to be spayed or neutered, or that it would otherwise be detrimental to the health of the dog.

Sec. 7-6.5 Cats released to the animal control contractor.

Any impounded cat shall be spayed or neutered by the animal control contractor prior to its adoption unless a veterinarian certifies that the cat is too sick or injured to be spayed or neutered, or that it would otherwise be detrimental to the health of the cat.

Pure bred's will still be bred and sold on a black market because demand is there. The way to solve the problem would be for adoption centers to provide the same animals, but rescued animals, for free and compete directly with the breeding industry,

Mahalol

Frank De Giacomo

LATE

Testimony for CPN/EDT 2/7/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2504

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Diane Stehouwer
Organization: Individual
E-mail: stehower@altelco.net
Submitted on: 2/7/2012

Comments:

I can't even imagine the idiocy of this proposal.
Where will future generations of pets come from?
There are legitimate AKC breeders who will be unable to continue producing the best of their breed.

Testimony for CPN/EDT 2/7/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2504

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Diane Stehouwer
Organization: Individual
E-mail: stehower@altelco.net
Submitted on: 2/7/2012

Comments:

I can't even imagine the idiocy of this proposal.
Where will future generations of pets come from?
There are legitimate AKC breeders who will be unable to continue producing the best of their breed.

LATE

Testimony for CPN/EDT 2/7/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2504

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Melia Prinzing
Organization: Individual
E-mail: puppy_luv_78@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

Testimony for CPN/EDT 2/7/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2504

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Christin Matsushige
Organization: Hawaii Cat Foundation
E-mail: hawaiicatfoundation@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

Testimony for CPN/EDT 2/7/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2504

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Christin Matsushige
Organization: Hawaii Cat Foundation
E-mail: hawaiicatfoundation@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

Please support this measure and save lives of companion animals.

Testimony for CPN/EDT 2/7/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2504

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Betina Parker
Organization: equine 808 Horse Rescue
E-mail: director@equine808.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

LATE

Testimony for CPN/EDT 2/7/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2504

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jennifer chang
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Cnj@Hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

I believe responsible pet owner should be able to make their own choice!!!

Testimony for CPN/EDT 2/7/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2504

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jennifer Morris
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jennylinmorris@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

Testimony for CPN/EDT 2/7/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2504

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Anu Iyer
Organization: Individual
E-mail: anushyam1@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

Testimony for CPN/EDT 2/7/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2504

Conference room: 229

Testifier position: Oppose

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Diane Stehouwer

Organization: Individual

E-mail: stehower@altelco.net

Submitted on: 2/7/2012

Comments:

I can't even imagine the idiocy of this proposal.

Where will future generations of pets come from?

There are legitimate AKC breeders who will be unable to continue producing the best of their breed.



Testimony of Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council
House Bill 2504
Before the Senate Commerce & Consumer Protection Committee
February 8, 2012

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Mike Canning, Esq., CAE

The Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC) greatly appreciates the opportunity to address this committee on House Bill 2504. As the world's largest pet trade association, representing the interests of all segments of the pet industry throughout the United States, PIJAC counts among its thousands of members associations, organizations, corporations and individuals across the United States involved in the commercial pet trade. More specifically, PIJAC represents manufacturers, distributors, breeders and retailers throughout the state of Hawaii.

Nobody cares more about healthy and safe pets than does PIJAC. PIJAC has for many years provided a well-respected animal care certification program that is widely utilized by not only persons in the commercial pet trade but shelters and humane societies as well. Our association has long been recognized as the voice for a responsible pet trade, and we routinely advocate legislative and regulatory proposals establishing governmental mandates where appropriate to advance the public interest and welfare of pets. PIJAC works closely with USDA to ensure effective enforcement of the federal Animal Welfare Act, and has since its inception. We regularly work with other federal and state agencies to advance animal welfare interests.

PIJAC has been concerned about, and involved in, the so-called pet over-population issue for many years, although that term is somewhat of a misnomer. There is no shortage of the demand for puppies and kittens. Indeed, some shelters import puppies from out-of-state and even outside the United States in order to meet demands for adoptions. There is, however, a population of unwanted animals that represents a real cause for concern. Unfortunately, the bill before you today will not address that concern. The population of unwanted dogs and cats is a complex issue that will not be solved with a simplistic solution.

House Bill 2504 directly impacts the sellers of pet dogs and cats, and the pet owning public. We respectfully submit that it benefits neither those pet owners nor the public at large. Rather, imposes spay/neuter and microchipping responsibility and costs on pet sellers, which is an undue burden that should not be placed solely on sellers and will drive up cost of pet animals.

There are good reasons why no other state has enacted a broad scale mandatory sterilization law such as the one here being considered. The pet trade widely endorses spay-neuter, where appropriate. But that does not mean we endorse a mandate. There are various reasons why pet owners choose whether and when to sterilize their pets. Some may desire to breed the animals, but others may only wish to keep that option open. Whether and when to conduct such a procedure should be made by the pet owner after consultation with his or her veterinarian on a case-by-case basis, not imposed by the state.

PIJAC is highly sympathetic to the concerns motivating this legislation. But the mandate being imposed on pet sellers is overkill. We respectfully urge the committee to hold this legislation for further study in order to develop a bill that will more reasonably target specific concerns without imposing excessive restrictions on all pet seller and owners.

Thank you greatly for your consideration of our concerns!

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bambi Nicole Osborne".

Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council
Bambi Nicole Osborne
Director of Government Affairs