

City Council Regular Meeting

June 20, 2024

FRESNO CITY COUNCIL



Public Comment Packet

ITEM(S)

2-EE (ID 24-862) *** RESOLUTION - To provide a temporary moratorium on the issuance of new unaltered dog licenses (Subject To Mayor's Veto).

Contents of Supplement: Public comment emails

Item(s)

Supplemental Information:

Any agenda related public documents received and distributed to a majority of the City Council after the Agenda Packet is printed are included in Supplemental Packets. Supplemental Packets are produced as needed. The Supplemental Packet is available for public inspection in the City Clerk's Office, 2600 Fresno Street, during normal business hours (main location pursuant to the Brown Act, G.C. 54957.5(2)). In addition, Supplemental Packets are available for public review at the City Council meeting in the City Council Chambers, 2600 Fresno Street. Supplemental Packets are also available on-line on the City Clerk's website.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):

The meeting room is accessible to the physically disabled, and the services of a translator can be made available. Requests for additional accommodations for the disabled, sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or translators should be made one week prior to the meeting. Please call City Clerk's Office at 621-7650. Please keep the doorways, aisles and wheelchair seating areas open and accessible. If you need assistance with seating because of a disability, please see Security.



**AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB®**

June 14, 2024

Re: American Kennel Club Comments on Proposed Unaltered Dog License Suspension

Dear Council President Perea and Members of the Fresno City Council:

The American Kennel Club (AKC) writes today on behalf of our four local area kennel clubs and the many responsible dog owners in the city to respectfully ask you to not proceed with any proposal that would lead to a suspension of unaltered dog licenses. AKC cares deeply about the conditions and the welfare of *all* dogs, including ones languishing in Fresno's animal shelter system. We stand ready to be a part of a comprehensive solution and offer several steps below that would meaningfully address the very real problems that exist in the city shelter system.

Simply blaming registered, responsible dog owners for conditions in area animal shelters will in no way improve animal shelter populations; this proposal will have a significant negative impact on dog owners and the local community.

We respectfully ask that you consider AKC's concerns:

- **Responsible, licensed dog owners are models for their communities. Those that breed raise healthy dogs and work to ensure that puppies are placed with appropriate owners, even agreeing to take dogs back if a home does not work out, instead of placing them in a shelter where they are cared for at the taxpayers' expense. These responsible city residents are in a unique position to support new pet owners and teach them to be responsible dog owners. In addition, many breeders are providing quality dogs not just to be wonderful family pets, but also to act as service, working, and search and rescue dogs.**

Breeders have worked for decades to establish quality breeding programs that produce well-bred, healthy dogs. We encourage you to not overregulate and further burden responsible breeders who have been providing quality, well-bred pets to the community for many years because there are already a number of unlicensed breeders in the city. The city does not need more unlicensed, lower quality breeders at the expense of community-minded, responsible breeders.

- AKC believes inclusive public outreach and education are key to promoting and instilling a culture of responsible pet ownership. If the city of Fresno seeks to increase the prevalence dog owners spaying or neutering their dogs, resources should continue to be directed toward making sure low-cost spay/neutering programs are both fully funded, and the service is known to city residents. Nothing will ease the strain on the shelter system more than a culture of responsible pet ownership.
- Many may choose to keep an intact dog for participation in AKC events or other humane and reasonable purposes. The AKC estimates that the economic impact of dog shows is vast. Surveys demonstrate that exhibitors at AKC conformation dog shows spend an average of \$982 per show weekend. This means spending by AKC dog show exhibitors for a show weekend could inject more than \$2.15 million into the local economy – and this amount does not include spending for events such as Agility, Rally, Obedience, and similar competitions.

The AKC understands the issues facing Fresno's animal shelter system. To lessen the strain on the system and to promote the welfare of all animals in the system, AKC proposes the following recommendations:

- Ensure good data collection to determine where issues are originating and allow for arising problems to be adequately addresses.
- Ensure all animals received in the shelter system to be checked for microchips so lost pets don't languish in shelter system taking up valuable space and resources.
- Make sure low-cost spay and neuter funds are available to all who need it and ensure that program availability is widely known through community outreach.
- Consider offering tax credits or other programs to incentivize greater acceptance of pets in residential housing to address the issue of pets ending up in shelter system only because of housing issues.
- Develop a plan to manage "dangerous dogs" taken in and kept in the shelter system.

However, if this city decides to move forward with the proposal as its currently drafted, the AKC asks that the city allow for the following exemptions that are found in other Californian cities, including the city of Long Beach:

- Many choose to keep a dog intact for health reasons, as scientific studies are demonstrating the many potential impacts that sterilization- particularly at a young age – can have on the health of a dog. **An exemption should be made for a dog that is medically unsuited to undergo a spay or neuter procedure or incapable of breeding.**
- To reiterate, many may choose to keep an intact dog for participation in AKC events or other humane and reasonable purposes. These owners should not be punished for keeping an unsterilized dog – especially as they are keeping their dogs in a responsible manner. **An exemption should be made for a dog that is a breed approved by and registered with a national or international breed registry or association which, at a minimum, requires identification of the breed, date of birth, names of registered sire and dam, the name of the breeder and recordkeeping relating to breeding, transfer of ownership. The owner shall provide verified proof to the satisfaction of the City with each application for a license.**

We appreciate the city's attention to this issue and their passion for the welfare of animals. Thank you for reviewing and considering our concerns and recommended amendments to this proposed resolution.

Regards,



Bob Rilling-Smith
Legislative Analyst
American Kennel Club



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From: noreply@granicusideas.com
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2024 12:48 PM
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Subject: [BULK] New eComment for City Council on 2024-06-20 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting - Vote on Final Budget

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New eComment for City Council on 2024-06-20 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting - Vote on Final Budget

Julie Henry submitted a new eComment.

Meeting: City Council on 2024-06-20 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting - Vote on Final Budget

Item: 2.-EE. ID 24-862 *** RESOLUTION - To provide a temporary moratorium on the issuance of new unaltered dog licenses (Subject To Mayor's Veto).

eComment: I feel that not registering unaltered dogs is not going to change the amount of dogs that are in shelters. The city must understand that not everyone wants a mixed breed dog for various reasons. Often shelter dogs have problems or of a breed that perhaps is considered aggressive and of an unpredictable temperament. They turn to reputable breeders of pure bred dogs with health tests and pedigrees that can be traced for generations. Why are the shelters so full? Backyard breeders and abandoned dogs. That is the real problem.

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New eComment for City Council on 2024-06-20 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting - Vote on Final Budget

Lori Reyes submitted a new eComment.

Meeting: City Council on 2024-06-20 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting - Vote on Final Budget

Item: 2.-EE. ID 24-862 *** RESOLUTION - To provide a temporary moratorium on the issuance of new unaltered dog licenses (Subject To Mayor's Veto).

eComment: Responsible, licensed dog owners are not the reason for shelter population concerns; responsible owners of intact animals are not the reason for shelter population concerns. In terms of addressing issues in animal shelter system, the following steps would have a greater impact on shelter system than banning responsible breeding: o Ensure good data collection to determine where issues are originating and allow for arising problems to be adequately addresses. o Ensure all animals received in the shelter system to be checked for microchips so lost pets can be quickly reunited with their owners and don't languish in shelter system taking up valuable space and resources. o there are NO exemptions in the resolution and that spay/neuter is permanent even if the resolution could be temporary. o Make sure low-cost spay and neuter funds are available to all who need it and ensure that program availability is widely known through community outreach. o Often, dogs are surrendered due to economical or other unforeseen circumstances, including housing. Consider offering tax credits or other programs to incentivize greater acceptance of pets in residential housing to address issue of pets ending up in shelter system only because of housing issues. o Develop a plan to manage dangerous dogs taken in and kept in the shelter system. Thank you for your consideration. Lori Reyes

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Louisa Ferncliffe submitted a new eComment.

Meeting: City Council on 2024-06-20 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting - Vote on Final Budget

Item: 2.-EE. ID 24-862 *** RESOLUTION - To provide a temporary moratorium on the issuance of new unaltered dog licenses (Subject To Mayor's Veto).

eComment: Hello, What twisted government overreach! Laws, laws and more laws are not the answer. Can €™t you do something worthwhile? I oppose this Hitler-style authoritarian dog breeding bill.

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Sara Lopez submitted a new eComment.

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Item: 2.-EE. ID 24-862 *** RESOLUTION - To provide a temporary moratorium on the issuance of new unaltered dog licenses (Subject To Mayor's Veto).

eComment: Reputable breeders are not the issue here. I do feel that there needs to be public assistance for low cost spay and neuter. Not enough prioritize spaying and neutering for the cost it is in this economy. Not registering unaltered dogs will not help the number of dogs in shelters.

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Penny P submitted a new eComment.

Meeting: City Council on 2024-06-20 9:00 AM - Regular Meeting - Vote on Final Budget

Item: 2.-EE. ID 24-862 *** RESOLUTION - To provide a temporary moratorium on the issuance of new unaltered dog licenses (Subject To Mayor's Veto).

eComment: Dear City Council, I am offering a different point of view concerning your upcoming legislation on the band and suspension of unaltered dogs. There are many enthusiasts that show dogs and are involved with performance activities with their dogs within the city. I can understand your concerns about the over population of dogs and I agree that something needs to be done. Perhaps some sort low cost spay and neuter clinics can be offered to the public. The legislation as written will harm the dog enthusiasts that are deeply involved in the community. Perhaps some sort of modification can be included that would exempt show and performance enthusiasts from your proposed legislation. Canine clubs promote the well being of animal care and welfare and they don't contribute to the over crowding of the shelters. Every breeder I know will take back a dog that they have sold and have it written in their contracts when selling a puppy. They are law biding citizens who are conscientious of the law. These are the people you will be hurting. It is the backyard breeders that are the problem. Please reconsider this legislation not to include the breeders with the best of intentions and who through the sport of dogs actually bring in money to the local economy with their club events. Thank you for the consideration, Penny

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