

June 15, 2007

Dear President Faoro,

Thank you for your letter. I appreciate the CVMA's effort in trying to keep the membership updated.

I respectfully disagree with this legislation on many levels. Although I understand that the intent was well meant, the bill is flawed in several areas and I cannot support it, even IF the changes mentioned below are made.

I am a member of the San Diego County Veterinary Medical Society, and have supported many local efforts by my veterinary community and by local Animal Control and other humane organizations. I am proud of my community's effort and success in reducing the unwanted pet overpopulation. These combined effort prove to me that pet over population can be successfully dealt with without state legislation, and without passing unnecessary, unenforceable laws that will turn my clients into unknowing criminals. I also very much disagree with the legislation limiting the breeding to recognized purebred dogs or automatically allowing them exempt status. I have met many "purebred" dogs that are being bred inappropriately and/or producing unhealthy puppies. In fact many, many more than in the case of mixed breed dogs. I am not of the opinion that a pedigree makes a dog or cat a better pet, and there is a strong argument that mixed breed pets may have fewer medical challenges.

Having had to deal just last night with a tragic emergency case of a young, healthy lab spayed at another hospital whose suture line dehisced and she was eviscerated, I have to ask if we have the **right** to pass a law saying that people **MUST** perform a potentially life threatening surgery on their pets? That dog died on the surgery table, trying to repair the damage done to her intestines. Tell me, if we as veterinarians have supported this law, who is liable for the pets death? Who is going to providing all of these spays and neuters? Are we going to see more tragic deaths due to "low cost" (translated into "low quality") surgery?

My clients love and care for their beautiful purebred and mixed breed dogs. It has been my job for a decade now to help them love and care for them. I will continue to educate my clients as to the risks and the benefits of spaying and neutering. I will continue to counsel them in making good decisions for their pets on an individual basis. I will continue to volunteer at spay and neuter clinics. I will continue to go to schools and talk to children about pet ownership and the responsibility it represents. I will continue to help care for their pets whether they decide to breed them or not. The only thing that is in question is whether I can continue to be a part of the CVMA membership if it supports bills that go so much against my beliefs.

To say the least, I will be voting against this bill. I will be very disappointed in the CVMA if this bill passes due to its efforts.

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