



Dear Anderson City Council Members:

On behalf of the Indiana Purebred Dog Alliance (IPDA), I am writing in opposition to proposed Ordinance 34-10. IPDA was formed in early 2009 to protect the interests of responsible purebred dog hobby breeders and owners. Our members breed and show their dogs primarily in American Kennel Club events throughout Indiana. Several of our members reside in Anderson and are members of the Anderson Kennel Club and the Anderson Obedience Training Club.

We are opposed to mandatory spay/neuter laws for the following reasons:

1. These laws have not proven effective in reducing shelter populations. On the contrary, many shelters have seen an increase in populations as owners are forced to leave their dogs at the shelter when unable to pay for the costs of having their dog altered. If Ordinance 34-10 becomes law in the City of Anderson, due to the stalled economy, your shelter will more than likely find an increase in dogs surrendered simply because their owners, however responsible and not willing to break the law, will not be able to afford the cost of spay/neuter.
2. Mandatory spay/neuter laws are difficult to enforce and can be evaded by irresponsible animal owners. Those not willing to pay for a license to keep their animals intact will simply ignore the law.
3. Mandatory spay/neuter laws are costly to the community because they greatly increase the work load of animal control officers. Animal control officers will find that they are euthanizing more animals at taxpayer's expense because some owners choose to leave their animals at the shelter rather than comply with the law.
4. The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) oppose mandatory spay/neuter laws. Both of these organizations promote **voluntary** sterilization as the demonstrated long-term method for significantly reducing the number of animals entering animal shelters.
5. Mandatory spay/neuter laws are unfair to responsible hobby breeders and dog owners. A responsible breeder has the right to use their own discretion in determining whether to spay or neuter their animals. Purebred hobby breeders make a serious commitment to ensure the future health and welfare of their breed. A lot of thought and research goes into the planned breedings of purebred dogs. Additionally, to maintain the health of breeding females, the AVMA advocates breeding back-to-back rather than once per 12 month period.

The members of the Indiana Purebred Dog Alliance stand ready to assist you by increasing public education programs and responsible dog ownership. We also encourage you to enforce existing leash laws and effective animal control laws already in place. Please contact me by email or phone at your earliest convenience.

Best regards,

Carole Creech, President
Indiana Purebred Dog Alliance, Inc.
317-694-9236