



Irish Wolfhound Club of America, Inc.

September 7, 2008  
The Honorable Alderman Edward Burke  
Chair, Committee on Finance  
Chicago City Council, Room 302  
121 N. LaSalle St.  
Chicago, IL 60602  
Sent via FAX: (312)-744-1955

**Subject: Oppose Mandatory Spay/Neuter Ordinance**  
(July 22 draft of the Chicago Mandatory Spay/Neuter ordinance and in any and all future versions)

Dear Alderman Edward Burke;

I am writing on behalf of the Irish Wolfhound Club of America (herein-after referred to as the IWCA) and the IWCA Legislative Committee (IWCA-LC). The IWCA was established on 2 October 1926 as the parent club for Irish Wolfhounds nation-wide with 14 Regional and Local Clubs. As a member of the American Kennel Club, the IWCA encourages the highest ethical breeding standards and responsible ownership of the Irish Wolfhound.

The IWCA is opposed to the proposed Chicago Mandatory Spay/Neuter ordinance. This ordinance appears to be based on a series of misguided premises including:

- The Chicago Mandatory Spay/Neuter ordinance is proposed to control crimes involving animals, such as dog fighting:  
  
These activities are already illegal and defined as 'felonies' under Illinois state law. It is disingenuous to promote that one more 'law or ordinance' will modify the behavior of those already engaging, or considering engaging, in illegal activities such as dog fighting. These individuals are already committing a felony. Failure to comply with one more newly enacted spay/castration ordinance or submit to background checks to apply for a breeding permit imposes no additional consequence.
- Mandatory spay/neuter is an effective and appropriate solution to animal control problems in Chicago:

It is our understanding that, according to the 2007 CASA (Chicago Animal Shelter Alliance) statistics, Chicago is close to being a "no-kill city", with few, if any, healthy pets euthanized. Nearly all pets euthanized were ill or injured, and many had been brought in by their owners specifically to be euthanized. Shelters, and private rescue groups, yearly import many homeless dogs and cats into the City since the supply of adoptable homeless pets cannot supply Chicago's demand for these animals.

Mandatory Spay/Neuter (MSN) legislation, when enacted in other locations (e.g. San Mateo and Santa Cruz Counties in California, and more recently the City of Los Angeles) has resulted in an increase in animal shelter intakes and, therefore, increased euthanasia rates. Where MSN legislation has been enacted, it has actually reduced compliance with pet licensing, and in certain areas, has reduced compliance with rabies vaccination requirements. Reduction in the percentage of pets vaccinated against rabies could have serious public health consequences.

The Chicago MSN ordinance, as currently proposed, is redundant. (i.e. unnecessary). The only individuals (and animals) affected would be those 'innocent' of the 'crimes' targeted and who do not contribute to the 'animal control' issues cited.

As such, the IWCA-LC, on behalf of the IWCA membership, respectfully urges you to vote 'NO' when the Chicago Mandatory Spay/Neuter Ordinance is brought to vote.

Respectfully submitted,

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