



THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB

JOHN J. MANDEVILLE
Vice President

August 20, 1993

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John Hamil, DVM
20372 Laguna Canyon Rd.
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Dear John:

Just a quick note to follow up the Council's meeting. I am enclosing a copy of the policy statement on early spay/neuter which was approved by AKC's Board at its meeting on August 9th.

In terms of the work the Council is trying to foster, it seems to me that major attention needs to be paid to how to make the spaying and neutering of shelter adoptions a reality. Although I can think of a wide-range of things that could potentially impact the problem (including making it possible for UC vet students to do alterations for shelters at private vet facilities off hours), it seems to me ultimately the problem comes down to what actually happens at specific shelters in specific communities.

It would seem that the Council should be able to find volunteer local shelters and members of the profession to start a model program of 100% alterations. Perhaps as Priscilla gets hands-on experience in her shelter she will have insights. In any case, I think the Council should be making it a top priority to find out how to make 100% neutering of all shelter adoptions a reality.

On a slightly different note, I am extremely concerned that the cat problem (particularly the feral colonies and feeders) is only getting worse and there is very little chance that the sufficiently aggressive actions necessary to address the problem can be undertaken. As far as I am concerned, it should probably be a crime to feed feral colonies. C'est la vie.

Take care.

Sincerely,

John Mandeville

JM/jea
Enclosure