

testimony we recounted numerous current specific problem areas where education has failed and the new law would help."

For a copy of the Santa Cruz ordinance contact The Fund for Animals or Jody Paterniti, Santa Cruz SPCA, 2200 7th Ave., Santa Cruz, CA 95062, (408)475-6454.

MARINA, CALIFORNIA

The city of Marina recently passed an ordinance that addresses the following issues:

- **Breeding permits:** breeding permits must be applied for and purchased by those who wish to breed their dog or cat. The breeding permit requirement is waived if, on the first occasion of such birth, the person surrenders the litter to animal control and has the parent animal sterilized. This ordinance also stipulates that the offspring cannot be sold until at least seven weeks old and they must also have been checked by a veterinarian and received all appropriate vaccinations.

- **Feral cats:** makes it unlawful for any person to feed feral or abandoned unsterilized cats, except to trap such cat for purposes of spaying or neutering, or for proper disposal.

- **Cosmetic surgery:** makes it unlawful for anyone to crop a dog's ears, except when a licensed veterinarian performs the surgery and issues a signed certificate that the operation is necessary for the dog's health and comfort.

The two most unique aspects of Marina's ordinance is the section addressing feral cats and cosmetic surgery. Few communities have made it illegal to feed homeless cats, unless you also take the full responsibility for sterilizing them. It's common for people to put food out for cats, which perpetuates the overpopulation problem. Marina's language on ear cropping is precedent-setting. The time is long overdue for addressing the hideous practice of cropping dogs' ears. Interestingly, a large percentage of the veterinary profession share our distaste for this surgical procedure.

For a copy of Marina's ordinance, please contact The Fund for Animals or Roger Williams, Director,

Marina Department of Public Safety, 211 Hillcrest Ave., Marina, CA 93933, (408)384-5225.

VISALIA, CALIFORNIA

The Valley Oak SPCA in Visalia, California, recently passed a breeding permit ordinance. The ordinance, according to Gary Dungan, executive director of the Valley Oak SPCA, requires special breeder permits for anyone who breeds animals for sale or profit. The permits cost \$50 per year. Visalia's ordinance also stipulates that no offspring can be sold/adopted until eight weeks of age and until vaccinated against common diseases. To help with its enforcement, the ordinance also makes it unlawful for any person to advertise the sale/adoption of a litter without including in the advertisement a breeder permit number. The ordinance also mandates cat licensing.

The Valley Oak SPCA, which provides animal control services for the city of Visalia, chose to issue warnings for the first year and will write citations after the ordinance has been in effect for one year.

For a copy of the ordinance contact The Fund for Animals or Gary Dungan, Valley Oak SPCA, 29016 Highway 99, Visalia, CA 93277, (209)651-1437.

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

In an effort to slow the daily killing of stray cats at the Sacramento County Animal Control Center, the Board of Supervisors voted in May 1994 to require licenses for cats, just as they do for dogs. Licensing fees will be \$10 for altered cats and \$20 for unaltered - the same as their current fees for dogs. According to Pat Wilcox, director of the shelter, in 1993 they destroyed 18,166 animals; 10,713 were cats and 6,132 were dogs. Only 2 percent of the cats at the shelter were claimed by their guardians, as compared with 22 percent of the dogs. Wilcox said she believes more cats will be claimed with the new cat licenses, which will allow her staff to match cats with guardians.

In 1993 the Sacramento county and city shelters began sterilizing all dogs and cats before they leave their facilities.

GEORGIA STATE

Humane Services, Inc. informed us that Georgia recently passed a state law requiring dogs and cats adopted from animal shelters to be spayed or neutered. Non-compliance constitutes a misdemeanor and any person convicted is subject to a fine not to exceed \$200. According to Edwina Barnes with Humane Services, Inc., Karen Ball with Project Zero in Columbus, Georgia, was the driving force behind the legislation. Georgia is the 20th state to pass legislation of this nature, the 13th state in which non-compliance constitutes a fine.



Spay/Neuter Legislation
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