



**CITY CLERK'S OFFICE  
MEMORANDUM**

December 13, 2023

**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS**

**FROM: JULIE DRIMAKIS, CITY CLERK**

**SUBJECT: COUNCIL MEETING OF DECEMBER 13, 2023, 5:15 PM  
CONSENT CALENDAR AGENDA ITEM 7.e.**

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This memorandum is to transmit public comments received.

<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Type</b>
D'Alessandro	Louis & Linda	7.e. opposed	E-mail
Hubble	Bonnie	7.e. opposed	E-mail
Willaims	Shannon	7.e. support	E-mail
Enns	Stacy	7.e. support	E-mail
Parker	Kathy	7.e. opposed	E-mail
Rowles	Joanne	7.e opposed	E-mail
Van Luchene	Susan	7.e. opposed	E-mail
Castelan-Svette	Lisa	7.e. opposed	E-mail
Smith-Harden	Linda	7.e. opposed	E-mail

Attachments

**From:** [Louis DAlessandro](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** PROPOSED DOG BREEDING REGULATIONS  
**Date:** Monday, December 11, 2023 10:51:19 AM

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ISTRONGLY OPPOSE THE DOG BREEDING AND KENNEL REGULATIONS THAT ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION. THESE ARE UNSOUND REGULATIONS THAT WILL POSE EXTREME HARDSHIP ON ALL RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERS AND BREEDERS. THIS DOES NOT SOLVE ANY OF THE PROBLEMS THAT THE CITY IS EXPERIENCING AND IS TRULY UNFAIR AND PREJUDICE TO THE PARTIES AFFECTED.

Thank You, Louis and Linda D'Alessandro

**From:** [bonnie\\_hubbell](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Ordinance concerning Animals/Dogs  
**Date:** Monday, December 11, 2023 12:44:16 PM

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To Bakersfield City Council Members ,

My name is Bonnie Hubbell and I reside inside the city limits of Bakersfield. For the last several years I have owned dogs. My dogs are all licensed spayed or neutered up to date on all vaccines, have annual checkups. I walk my dogs daily they live in the house sleep on our beds eat 3 meals a day, and are as much a part of our family as our adult children. My dogs have their separate insurance, eat special diets and quality foods, are exercised by individual walks (leashed of course). All have been through obedience training as well as other training. My dogs are all akc registered. Why this matters is that the ordinance that you are implementing will affect myself and other responsible pet owners. I have never bred nor would consider breeding a dog or having a litter of puppies. I purchased purebred dogs for ability to have the type and temperament that I wanted. I spend countless hours with my dogs making sure that they are well taken care of. Knock on wood, my dogs have never gotten out of our control (property) but if it did happen they are micro chipped and tagged for identification. The temperament of my dogs is excellent and would be of no threat to another individual or animal. I understand the overpopulation of animals that run on the street. Your ordinance will not impact the overpopulation. Irresponsible pet owners will still continue to be irresponsible. There must be other ways to deal with the issues that you are facing other than hurting the responsible pet owners. Enforce the licensing laws enforce the spay neuter for other than breeders, please understand the age of neuter and spay differ on breeds of dogs. Reprimand the irresponsible pet owners, cat and dogs and all other animals. Increase the licensing amount. Fine for loose animals just like city does for excessive alarm calls. Hire more animal control. Do not give free adoption days if you can't afford to adopt a dog you surely cannot afford to house feed and keep that dog healthy. Form a committee of responsible pet owners to work with city on these issues. Require dogs adopted out to pursue training for their dogs. There are several trainers that are reasonable like Kern Canine activities.

I am sorry that I could not address the city council in person with my beloved dogs, but I will be traveling out of state at this time.

I have two residences that I could license my 4 dogs at, to keep me from violating the ordinance. But why should I, We pay our taxes on time obeys the laws...even stop at stop signs when no one is looking. We drive the speed limit, obey crosswalks etc we also license our dogs and give them a wonderful life. They do not negatively impact our neighbors or neighborhood.

You all represent the people of this city. Please understand that common sense tells you this ordinance will not do anything to correct the problems like many others it will hurt the people that are responsible and the irresponsible will continue being irresponsible. We need to find a way to work with the laws on the books and ENFORCE those ordinances/ laws.

Thankyou.

Bonnie Hubbell  
3507 University Ave  
Bakersfield ca 93306  
661)205-4646

Please excuse any typos as I am in transit thankyou.

Dear City Council Members,

12/11/23

Euthanasia is a constant threat on the horizon for all animals that have found their way into shelter system...with the clock ticking the moment they step foot in the facility.

Each year thousands of shelter animals are euthanized in Bakersfield. What is the magic number? Do we have to be the number one in the state for shelter deaths? Is it 1,000 a month? Is it 2,000? When will our legislative "powers that be" step in and begin mandating spay/neuter (I realize there are some nuances so with stipulations), and enforcing some abasion for backyard breeding?

We have formed a coalition in Kern called Kern S,A,F,E, (saving animals from euthanasia). This team is comprised of 80+ rescue, shelter, fosters, and animal advocates banding together to create a united front. Our goal is to leverage resources, experiences, and innovation to help curtail the pet overpopulation crisis in Kern, but we cannot do it alone. Kern SAFE is here to help create a solution by designing "canvassing crusades" in some of our socioeconomically challenged areas for the following:

Providing Resources

Fence Fixing

Education

Spay/Neuter

Shots and Chips

Pet Food Pantry

Community Involvement

Rescuers and shelter workers, doing their absolute best, feel like they are drowning in a sea of indifference that'll swallow them up if given a chance. They work tirelessly, networking for hours in hopes of saving just one life in a facility of more than 300+ all just as worthy of freedom and a chance as the next.

We all have something that we can bring to the table. We are committed to educating ourselves on the best ways to promote animal welfare in our community and participate in a culture that supports spay and neuter. Doing nothing is not an option, it never has been. We know we can't save them all, that is the reality. Do it for the countless number of unnamed and unwanted dogs/cats and puppies/kittens in our overcrowded shelter in Kern County.

Please call should you have any questions, and I appreciate your time and consideration! ~

Sincerely,

Shannon Williams

EMAS- Emm and Mal's Animal Sanctuary

661-331-9000

[emmandmalssanctuary@gmail.com](mailto:emmandmalssanctuary@gmail.com)

**From:** [City Council](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Please pass proposed animal ordinances  
**Date:** Monday, December 11, 2023 4:03:31 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)

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**Pilar Avalos | Secretary II**  
City Manager's Office

City of Bakersfield  
**email:** [pavalos@bakersfieldcity.us](mailto:pavalos@bakersfieldcity.us)  
**web:** [www.bakersfieldcity.us](http://www.bakersfieldcity.us)  
**phone:** 661-324-HELP (4357)



Have you tried our [Bakersfield Mobile App](#) for service requests? Requests submitted via the App are routed directly to staff assigned to address requests in the city, decreasing response time. You can learn more about what types of service requests can be submitted through the mobile app or our website here: [www.bakersfieldcity.us/599](http://www.bakersfieldcity.us/599). You can download the App for Apple and Android devices FREE here: [www.bakersfieldcity.us/663](http://www.bakersfieldcity.us/663).

**From:** Katherine E <katherineanddogs@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 11, 2023 9:47 AM  
**To:** City\_Council <City\_Council@bakersfieldcity.us>  
**Subject:** Please pass proposed animal ordinances

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Honorable Mayor and Council Members,

I am writing to urge you to pass all proposed animal ordinances that are on the agenda this Wednesday, December 13th. It is time for this and much needed. Bakersfield has been sending cats and dogs to Northern California, Oregon, and Washington for YEARS. Now some lucky ones are going to CANADA. Pregnant canines and female canines with puppies continue to FLOW into the shelter with no hope in sight. It is time for Bakersfield to take action and stop being a burden on other areas of the continent. The ordinances are well written and will give AC officers the tools to encourage the community to do the right thing. It is time to give this CRISIS the attention it deserves.

Please pass ALL proposed animal ordinances ( 6.04, 6.06, 6.07, and 6.09) as written.

Thank you for your time.

Stacy Enns

Kathy Parker  
7701 Eastlorne Court  
Bakersfield, CA 93309  
661-301-3780 / ke.parker@sbcglobal.net

December 11, 2023

Bakersfield City Council Members  
City Hall South, 1501 Truxtun Avenue  
Bakersfield, California 93301

VIA EMAIL: *city\_clerk@bakersfieldcity.us*

**RE: Adoption of various ordinances related to animal control regulations: (FR 11/29/23)**

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to express my firm opposition to overhauling the City's laws regarding dog ownership, dog breeding, and kennel licensing. I am one of the few City residents with all licensed pets, as licensing in the City is dismally low (**estimated to be < 5%** based on census data and dog licensing revenue in Bakersfield). I am also a member in good standing of the Bakersfield Obedience Training Club, Redwood Empire Mastiff Club, and the Mastiff Club of America.

The most concerning ordinance amendment is a *de facto* Mandatory Spay/Neuter law, which has not reduced pet overpopulation in any location where it has been implemented. Irresponsible owners who currently don't license their pets for a small fee will certainly not spend hundreds of dollars to spay/neuter their pets, even at the peril of not being able to retrieve a lost pet from the shelter. Informed pet owners would never consent to altering their dogs as proposed at six months old, given the significant number of peer-reviewed studies documenting the adverse health effects of pediatric spay/neuter, including lifelong orthopedic issues, increased cancer rates, and shortened lifespans. The American Veterinary Medical Association opposes mandatory sterilization and is concerned that some owners will avoid veterinary care in order to hide their lack of compliance (see attached). Further, what is the purpose for layering the proposed requirement to purchase an intact animal permit since license fees are already significantly higher for intact animals (\$120/intact dog vs \$15/altered dog)?

The proposed amendment would also require anyone breeding and selling a single litter of puppies to purchase a breeder's permit and allow inspections of the animals or any premises where they are kept. Responsible breeders restrict access to puppies to prevent the introduction of contagions such as parvovirus, distemper and canine herpes virus. Allowing inspectors into a home would risk introducing contagions from every home/animal they have inspected. Dedicated preservation breeders rear puppies in home environments with intense socialization and sanitation protocols in order to produce puppies that are far less likely to exhibit the behaviors or have health issues that result in owner surrender. It should also be noted that breeders who are members of breed clubs must abide by a code of ethics that requires the breeder to take back a puppy at any time during its life to ensure that it never becomes the responsibility of a shelter or rescue. Given the dismally low licensing levels in the City, resources would be much better used in canvassing neighborhoods to increase licensing, allocating monies to low cost spay/neuter services, and public education.

I strongly encourage the Council to set aside consideration of these amendments and instead investigate proven methods to reduce pet overpopulation and encourage responsible pet ownership. In fact, the

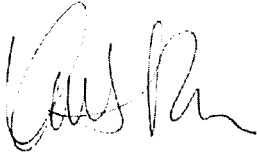
December 11, 2023

Page 2

proposed changes will only impact (negatively) the responsible pet owners. Since the current ordinances aren't enforced, not a single proposed amendment will bring irresponsible owners into compliance. Instead, please focus on funding animal control so they can enforce the existing laws before any amendments are considered. I believe that increasing dog licensure above the current <5% rate is the obvious first step; not additional regulation.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathy Parker', written in a cursive style.

Kathy Parker



# Mandatory Spay/Neuter Laws

Mandatory spay/neuter laws are usually considered by state and local governments in response to animal control concerns in the community. Proponents often believe that mandatory spay/neuter laws will reduce the number of animals at the local shelters and strays roaming in neighborhoods. However, such laws are ineffective in addressing animal control concerns and can harm dogs and punish responsible owners.

## Mandatory Spay/Neuter Laws are Ineffective



Mandatory spay/neuter laws do not reduce shelter populations. In fact, some shelters have seen an increase as owners choose to relinquish their pets if they are unable to pay the costs associated with sterilization. Moreover, many national research organizations have reported that the majority of unwanted dogs come from irresponsible owners who are unwilling to train, socialize, or care for their dogs. Imposing a mandatory spay/neuter law will not resolve the issue of irresponsible ownership.

## Mandatory Spay/Neuter Laws are Difficult to Enforce



Mandatory spay/neuter laws are extremely difficult to enforce and can be easily evaded by irresponsible animal owners. In fact, these laws often result in a decrease in the number of dogs licensed, because some individuals choose to not license their animals in order to avoid spaying and neutering their pets.

## Mandatory Spay/Neuter Laws Can Harm Dogs



Studies continue to demonstrate that spaying and neutering is not in the best interest of every dog. In particular, juvenile spay/neuter can lead to incontinence, joint issues, cancer or even a shorter life span.<sup>1</sup> The choice to sterilize a dog is an important health decision that should be made by owners in conjunction with a veterinarian. The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), who also opposes mandatory sterilization, notes that some owners will avoid veterinary care in order to hide their lack of compliance.<sup>2</sup>

[1] American Animal Club, "Addressing #3: Selection of Studies Demonstrating Negative Impact of Juvenile and Mandatory Spay/Neuter" [https://aacc.org/governmentaffairs/documents/pdf/Addressing\\_3\\_Dec2014.pdf](https://aacc.org/governmentaffairs/documents/pdf/Addressing_3_Dec2014.pdf)

[2] American Veterinary Medical Association, "Dog and Cat Population Management" <https://www.avma.org/resources/tools/policies/dog-and-cat-population-management>

## Mandatory Spay/Neuter Laws are Expensive for the Community



Mandatory spay/neuter laws greatly increase the workload of animal control officers, many of which are already financially strained. The laws can also increase shelter populations when pets are relinquished. Mandatory spay/neuter laws also can mean fewer AKC events, which generate significant economic impact for local communities each year.

## Mandatory Spay/Neuter Laws are Unfair to Responsible Dog Owners



Mandatory spay/neuter laws do not address an owner's level of responsibility or the behavior of their animals. Owners may keep dogs intact for health, responsible breeding, participation in dog events, hunting, or many other humane reasons. Responsible owners have a right to use their own discretion in determining whether to sterilize their animals.

## A Better Solution Is Available

Instead of imposing mandatory spay/neuter laws on all dog owners, governments should focus on enforcing effective animal control laws (including leash and containment laws) and expanding public education efforts to promote responsible pet ownership. AKC and many local dog clubs can assist in developing effective animal control laws and public education programs that address a community's concerns while also protecting the rights of responsible owners.



AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB  
Government Relations

[www.akcgr.org](http://www.akcgr.org) | [doglaweakc.org](http://doglaweakc.org) | 919-816-3720

**From:** [jrowles@bak.rr.com](mailto:jrowles@bak.rr.com)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Oppose Proposed Ordinances regarding Dog Ownership Dec 13  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 12, 2023 10:09:12 PM  
**Attachments:** [city council December 12.docx](#)

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Find attached letter

December 12, 2023

To: Members of the Bakersfield City Council

**I OPPOSE THE PROPOSAL CONCERNING LAWS RELATED TO DOG OWNERSHIP**

I am a Bakersfield city resident and a responsible dog owner with a dog licensed with the city. I have not seen the entire document but what I have seen I vehemently oppose. It smacks of mandatory spay/neuter. The owner of a dog and their veterinarian should make the decision whether to spay or neuter and at what age - not the government. There are many health reasons not to spay/neuter and 6 months is too early especially for larger dog breeds.

I oppose kennel permits for owners with more than 3 dogs at least twelve weeks old. Since responsible dog owners license their dogs, I assume you will check your data base and target these responsible dog owners. And.....will never get around to the hard targets who don't license or vaccinate their dogs and don't pick them up when they are in the shelter. We know that less than 5% of dogs in Bakersfield are licensed. If you are looking for money why not target areas and enforce licensing. They used to go door to door checking for unlicensed dogs. Why not now? Money from licensing could provide opportunity for low cost spay/neuter clinics. There is a real need for this and people will bring in their dogs, if it is affordable. Low-income families cannot afford to go to a veterinarian because it is cost prohibitive.

I think the proposed 4 months to 3 months for licensing and rabies has been dropped but if not, it should be. Reputable vets do not recommend rabies at 3 months.

I have no problem with spay/neuter. I have a problem with mandatory spay/neuter.

I support reasonable and enforceable laws that protect the welfare and health of dogs and do not restrict the rights of breeders and owners who meet their responsibilities.

I believe in responsible dog ownership and work in the community to get that message out. I am president of a local dog club. Myself and members of our club have met with the Kern County Supervisors on their proposal to change county ordinances regarding dogs. We would be very happy to meet Council Members to discuss this issue.

QUESTIONS: What is the cost of a kennel permit, breeders permit and intact dog permit? Is the intact dog permit in addition to the intact license? What precipitated these proposals?. None will stop overcrowding in the shelter.

I am a responsible dog owner and I vote.

JoAnne Rowles  
3916 Marilyn Place  
Bakersfield CA 93309  
661 833 1647 jrowles@bak.rr.com

**From:** [Susan Van Luchene](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** The CKCSC, USA Opposed to Breeder, Ownership Licensing and Inspections as proposed in the City of Bakersfield, CA  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 12, 2023 4:34:55 PM  
**Attachments:** [Outlook-0m01u5qz.png](#)

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The CKCSC, USA (Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club of the United States) along strongly supports and actively educates the public about responsible purebred breeding practices and the responsibilities of dog ownership. We also support reasonable and enforceable laws that protect the welfare and health of dogs and that do not restrict the rights of breeders and owners who meet their responsibilities. The CKCSC, USA opposes the concept of breeding permits, breeding bans or mandatory spay/neuter of purebred dogs, specifically those based on the number of dogs owned or maintained. We want to remind the City Council members that overly restrictive ordinances such as those being proposed in Bakersfield CA will inevitably lead to increased costs for animal control agencies while they unfairly penalize only the law-abiding citizens who license their dogs. It should also be pointed out that legislation of this nature elsewhere has pushed good people out of the licensing system and reduced certainty regarding rabies vaccination rates. Any system that makes the law abiding, responsible pet owners who license their pets accountable for the ones who don't is inherently unfair and destined to fail.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Van Luchene

Susan Van Luchene  
CKCSC, USA Legislative Chair  
[susanv98@hotmail.com](mailto:susanv98@hotmail.com)  
949-854-4478



**From:** Lou Svette  
**To:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** Subject: CA Alert: Bakersfield to Vote on Breeder, Ownership Licensing and Inspections on Wednesday (12/13)  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 13, 2023 10:44:15 AM

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Hello..

I'm am writing to reply with my thoughts.. I really feel these new ordinates really only hurt responsible law abiding residents..

I feel the laws we have now are not being enforced, so how are new laws going to help.. I really think that everyone should license and pay their fees to have their dogs. Since this law isn't being enforced, I think if more man power was put into this it would help our county immensely.. Also animals leaving the shelter going to new homes and over 6 months old should be spayed & neutered.. It's seems in this county people don't license their dogs or spay and neuter them.. I really believe this is where our focus should be on..

Thank you  
Lisa Castelan-Svette  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Linda  
**To:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** Changes to city Animal Control Laws,  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 13, 2023 12:29:50 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear City Council,

I personally stand against additional restrictions to breeders and legal ownership of dogs in the city of Bakersfield. Increasing inspections for anyone owning more than 4 dogs? Do you realize how many staff you would need for this in a city in a rural area of California? Besides increasing costs... how about enforcing laws already on your books regarding neglect and cruelty for animals, hording laws, etc.

I have owned as many as 5 dogs in the past and my large family made sure all were cared for. Our family did many activities with our dogs from dog shows to field trials, and jr. handling for the kids. We trained hunting, show, agility, service dogs and hospital therapy dogs in the past. Dogs are a part of our community and our families.

Purebred dogs are dogs that have been bred for consistent characteristics for specific purposes. They are used for herding and farming, hunting, security and protection, health and safety. When we get our next service dog, I want to rely on a purebred breeder that breeds for health, temperament and trainability my husband needs and relies on. Several organizations (like Canine Companions) rely on purebred dogs with reliable traits for those people who need them.

Every time you put more restrictions on multi dog families, and purebred breeders, it: A) increases the city's enforcement costs. B) increasingly drives others to just stop licensing all together to avoid overbearing restrictions C) Because more owners drift away from licensing all together, you increase health and safety of the public and the welfare of the dogs in their care.

I am also a member of the Tehachapi Mountain Dog Fanciers club. We work with the community to train family dogs to become good family members, or go on to become service, therapy, show, field dogs. As a club member, I am very concerned that these unenforceable laws which are also so costly to Animal Control and the community, will continue to erode the benefits of owning and training family dogs of which enrich our community so well. We are concerned that these sorts of restrictions will spread to other cities in our county (or state) and have a detrimental effect.

I would also like to point out that dog shows, field trials, pet businesses, veterinary services, training, and yes-- legitimate breeders in our community bring in a great deal of money (and city taxes, as well). It seems the city wants to alienate pet owners who contribute so much economically to the city of Bakersfield and all the activities they support.

I would advise the City Council to funnel the money that would have to be used to enforce such restrictive laws toward more voluntary free spay and neuter clinics and adoption activities instead.

Please don't pass more restrictions.

Mrs. Linda Smith-Hardman  
Owner of a beloved service dog  
Member of the Tehachapi Mountain Dog Fanciers.