

## **How to stop the pet slaughter**

Re "Whither the mutt?" editorial, March 5: I urge support of Assembly Bill 1634, the California Healthy Pets Act. The number of animals being destroyed because they are unwanted is staggering. More than 400,000 cats and dogs are killed in California shelters every year. That's an average of more than 1,000 pets per day.

There are many reasons to spay and neuter our pets. Significant health benefits include decreased reproductive infections and certain cancers. Behavioral benefits include a decrease in aggressive behavior and fighting. Even more important is that spaying and neutering will reduce the killing of millions of unwanted puppies and kittens.

The opposition to this bill comes from breeders who want to remain unregulated and those who don't want government interference. I would invite them to spend a few days in a shelter. What they'll see is healthy cats and dogs desperate for a home, shelter workers who are emotionally drained and facilities filled to capacity. These ongoing problems are not improving. We need to be a part of the solution and reduce the number of abandoned animals in California.

- Ron Faoro, D.V.M., Santa Barbara

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