

March 26, 2007

Editor
Monterey Herald

Dear Editor,

Your opposition to California Assembly Bill 1634, requiring pet owners to spay or neuter their cats and dogs, needs rethinking in light of the more than 430,000 family pets that die in California annually simply because they're unwanted. And please don't refer to it as "euthanasia", based on the Greek word for "good death". Dying because no one wants you is a bad death.

There is a huge pet oversupply. The only proven solution is spay/neuter, as exemplified by Santa Cruz County which has had mandatory spay/neuter since 1995. AB 1634 isn't a cure-all, but will help in the same sense that speed limits don't stop speeding but at least make driving safer.

The word count limit for these letters makes it impossible to rebut your reasons for opposing 1634 point by point, but please visit <http://cahealthypets.com/> to get the operative facts.

We will happily host your visit to a high-kill shelter a couple of hours away where you can see the status quo, quite literally, eye to eye. Perhaps then you'll reconsider your opposition and give AB 1634 the support it deserves.

Sincerely,

Sandy Ettinger
Board Member
Santa Cruz SPCA