

February 13, 2008

NATIONAL BRIEFING | WEST

## California: Pet Sterilization Is Ordered

By BLOOMBERG NEWS

Trying to reduce the number of animals the city's shelters kill each year, the Los Angeles City Council voted to require sterilization of cats and dogs at age 4 months or older. The ordinance, which passed 14 to 1, is also meant to curb illegal breeding and dog fighting, said Councilman Richard Alarcon, the sponsor. One of the ordinance's biggest supporters was the retired game show host Bob Barker, who for 25 years concluded the "Price Is Right" by urging viewers to spay or neuter their pets. He has put about \$35 million of his own money toward programs that subsidize those operations. Mr. Barker, who will be named by Mr. Alarcon to an outreach committee, said the statute would not be a burden on poor residents because the city offered about 11,000 vouchers for free operations a year and 20,000 for discounts. The bill has seven categories of exemptions, including licensed breeders and show, guide and law enforcement dogs.

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