



Dog Federation of Wisconsin  
742 S. Indiana Ave.  
West Bend, WI 53095  
Doglaw@dfow.org

## Dog Federation of Wisconsin Position Paper

### **Mandatory Spay/Neuter Laws (MSN) – government intrusion into personal decisions**

The Dog Federation of Wisconsin opposes government mandated spay/neuter (surgical sterilization) laws.

- We oppose mandatory spay/neuter because they punish those who are responsible pet owners. Responsible pet owners monitor their dogs and know how to prevent unplanned litters. *MSN will fail to affect irresponsible pet owners because these people ignore government imposed restrictions.*
- We oppose government mandated spay/neuter laws as this should be a personal decision between the animal owner and their veterinarian.
- We oppose MSN due to health considerations of animals. Pediatric spay/neuter (surgical sterilization before an animal's growth plates close) has proven to cause long term detrimental health effects in dogs. Spay incontinence, sports injuries, and increased risk for osteosarcoma, hemangiosarcoma, and hypothyroidism to name a few. *For more information please read an excellent white paper that is available at the National Animal Interest Alliance Website:*  
<http://naiaonline.org/pdfs/LongTermHealthEffectsOfSpayNeuterInDogs.pdf>
- We support pet owners that make responsible choices regarding spaying or neutering their animals. If a responsible pet owner has done research and believe that their animals will be healthier if left intact, that is entirely their decision. A responsible pet owner will ensure that their animal does not reproduce unless it is a planned breeding.
- We support breeders who often times have a spay/neuter clause in their contracts. Those breeders typically state an age in which they believe it is appropriate to have an animal spayed or neutered. Every breed and indeed every species of animal have different growth rates. A responsible breeder knows the safest age to spay or neuter their animals.
- Owner education and subsidized spay/neuter programs will be more effective and less expensive for local governments. This type of program will also protect a citizen's constitutional rights!

*What particular incident caused the consideration of a mandatory spay/neuter law? Is this a case where "because other communities are doing it, we should too"? Is there a national organization that is pushing your local government to adopt such a law? Legislators need to speak with breeders as well as veterinarians who specialize in reproduction and genetic disease. These individuals are the experts. The health and welfare of the dogs should take precedence, not an ill-advised law.*