



The Cat House

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Proposed Animal Control Ordinances

Neuter/Spay: Addressing the Primary Problem

by Rebecca Arnold, DVM, PhD

In every article written about the need to alter companion cats the reader is assaulted with staggering statistics regarding the number of cats euthanized every year. The cats that make up these statistics are not healthy cats. They are destroyed because they are infected with deadly diseases; they are so sick they cannot be saved. There are limited resources available to save them and in some cases death is actually a pleasant alternative to continued breathing.

It is this author's contention that none of this should have to be dealt with if the primary problem would be addressed: **non-breeding cats should be altered - period.** The enormity of this task can not be overstated.

Some of the worst cases I have dealt with are the result of **"this cat should have never been born in the first place."** If the queen would have been spayed, this mangled kitten would not be on the exam table. This includes a young male found in Bennett, NE, with one-third of his leg scraped off, from the armpit down. Another young male had his leg completely severed after being hit by a vehicle on Hwy 77. He was so hungry he lapped up bitter antibiotics as if they were sweet cream. As the seven month old queen is being spayed because she cannot deliver her kittens, the thought become **"This cat should have never been born in the first place."** The primary problem has not been addressed.

A comment was once made to me "Do you ever think you will alter so many cats that there will be a shortage of cats?" My response - **"Not in my lifetime."** But it is a wonderful thought.

Editor's note: Dr. Arnold is the owner of All Feline Hospital in Lincoln. At the present time she is the only totally feline veterinary practice in town. The cats she refers to in her article have all been successfully treated at her cost and are recovering nicely in their new responsible pet homes.

P.S. You too can advertise in



All Feline Hospital
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this newsletter. Contact address on the back side. Cat only advertisements, please.

Little Known Fact: Nebraska has three counties named after animals: Buffalo, Antelope and Garfield.

On July 7, 1998 the Animal Control Advisory Committee looked at the new ordinances one more time before passing them to the Board of Health. This Committee will take them up at their August meeting.

Here are some of the changes cat and dog owners have to look forward to if/when this is adopted into law:

- ◆ A class A dog hobby kennel allowing the ownership of a 4th dog. All dogs must be altered or pedigreed and kept for organized shows and/or breeding. Cost will be \$50 on top of licensing fees.
- ◆ A limit on the number of cats owned. This number is 6 cats. In order for these cats to be let outside, they must be wearing their license tag and neutered or spayed. Those with higher numbers will be grandfathered or allowed to keep the cats until the number is reduced to six.
- ◆ Those wishing to own seven or more cats can apply for a Class A hobby Cattery permit.

These cats must be spayed or neutered and are not allowed to roam outside. Cost will be \$10 on top of licensing fees. Limit of 15 cats.

- ◆ Class B Cattery Permits, those whose animals are bred and/or shown in organized shows are limited to 15 cats. Those permits who have registered cats in 1998 will be grandfathered to the number registered. Costs will be \$50 on top of licensing fee per cat. These cats cannot run at large.

In addition, licensing fees will be increased from \$10 to \$12 for a N/S animal; owning a non-neutered/spayed pet will cost twice that much - \$22 to \$24 with senior citizens getting a break of 1/3. This increase is to be used to pay for a low cost N/S program for low income people and for the addition of another Animal Control Officer. **For more detailed information, contact Animal Control at 441-7900.**

You know that you are an addicted "Cat Person" when... ..

Their litter box is cleaner than your house....

Their cat perch cost more than all of your furniture..

You wait to go to the bathroom for an hour because they are sleeping on your lap....

You spend \$40 at the grocery store and \$30 is for cat food....

You won't pick your own nose, but you will pick theirs....

You open and throw out several cans of food each day until you find the one they feel like eating....

You bring home a chicken sandwich for dinner. They get the chicken, you get the bread!.

