

## Mandatory Pet Spay-Neuter Bills Filed in Texas

**Identical proposals require cats, dogs older than 6 months to be spayed or neutered.**

Posted: March 18, 2009, 5 a.m. EDT

Two bills that would require the sterilization of all cats and dogs over the age of 6 months have been filed in the Texas Legislature. The identical bills, House Bill 4277 and Senate Bill 1845, state that an agency may not release a cat or dog for adoption unless the animal has been spayed or neutered.

There are exemptions to the mandate. For instance, if a pet owner chooses to keep an animal intact, he or she has the option of buying a \$300 permit per intact animal under the proposal.

In addition, HB 4277, sponsored by Rep. Jose Menendez, and SB 1845, by Sen. Leticia Van de Putte, both of San Antonio, would make each violation of the law a class C misdemeanor, liable for fines up to \$500 per violation.

This legislation does not apply to an animal less than 6 months old; a service animal; or an animal that a veterinarian has certified should not be sterilized for health reasons.