

## New Orleans Considers Dog Spay-Neuter Ordinance

**Legislation would require all dogs older than 6 months to be spayed or neutered.**

Posted: September 30, 2009, 5 a.m. EDT

The city of New Orleans is considering a mandatory spay-neuter and breeding restrictions ordinance, introduced by Councilwoman Cynthia Hedge-Morrell.

The ordinance, if enacted, would: Require all dogs 6 months of age or older to be spayed or neutered. Owners who wish to keep their pet intact would need to purchase a breeder permit. Limit female dogs from whelping more than one litter per year, or whelping a litter if the female is younger than 18 months. Permit the Louisiana SPCA, which will be responsible for enforcing the ordinance, to determine whether or not an applicant for a breeder license has "space determined to be suitable ... in which to breed dogs and raise puppies." Impose fines for those who are found to be in violation of the ordinance.

The American Kennel Club sent out a legislative alert Sept. 23 stating its opposition to the ordinance.

"The American Kennel Club opposes mandatory spay-neuter laws," the statement read. "Instead, we support reasonable and enforceable laws that protect the welfare and health of purebred dogs and do not restrict the rights of breeders and owners who take their responsibilities seriously.

"Additionally, we strongly support and actively promote a wide range of programs to educate the public about responsible breeding practices and the responsibilities of dog ownership."

The AKC said it is likely that the ordinance will be considered at the city council's upcoming meeting on Oct. 1.