

AB 1634 Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Is this a real problem or a solution in search of a problem?

- A. It's an urgent problem when nearly 1 million cats and dogs are taken in by California's severely overcrowded animal shelters every year and over half of those cats and dogs are euthanized.



Q. What is the cost to taxpayers of overcrowded animal shelters?

- A. California taxpayers are paying over \$250 million every year to shelter and euthanize unwanted pets. We are all paying for the neglect and irresponsibility of some pet owners.

Q. Do spay/neuter laws really work?

- A. Mandatory spay/neuter laws are a common-sense solution with a record of success. Spay/neuter laws are on the books and working in several jurisdictions in California, including San Mateo, Lake, Santa Cruz and Stanislaus counties, and the city of San Bernardino just adopted a spay/neuter law. Shelter populations in Santa Cruz County dropped by 50% after a spay/neuter law was adopted.



Q. What if someone can't afford to spay or neuter their animals?

- A. Free or low-cost spay/neuter services are widely available. Cities and counties throughout California offer free or low-cost spay/neuter services. In addition, local nonprofits such as the Humane Society often provide free services.

Q. Shouldn't this be voluntary and not mandated by the government?

- A. Voluntary spay/neuter laws simply aren't working. Despite the broad availability of free or low-cost spay/neuter services and extensive public education efforts, nearly 1 million unwanted cats and dogs end up in shelters, which is tantamount to a death sentence.

