



Seattle Humane Supports Spay/Neuter

Calls for Revision to Unfair SB 5329 / HB 2406

February 03, 2010

The Seattle Humane Society supports spaying and neutering. We have been at the forefront of the spay and neuter movement and alter every animal BEFORE it is placed in the adoption areas. We spay and neuter dogs before they are transferred to other rescues or we have a guarantee that those dogs will be altered.

We do not oppose spaying and neutering. We oppose the UNFAIRNESS of this particular bill, SB 5329/HB 2406. The parts of this bill that we disagree with are:

1. Shelters and rescue groups must heavily subsidize the surgeries while private veterinarians can charge retail fees and even make a profit.
2. Shelters and rescue groups must do income verification for clients and veterinarians are not required to do income verification.
3. When large funding agencies like PetSmart Charities® and Maddie's Fund® sponsor spay and neuter programs in communities, they have ceilings set on the fees that can be charged so that the most possible surgeries can be accomplished. This bill does not offer that fairness factor. This bill, if passed, will not maximize the number of animals who can be altered.

Shelters purchase large amounts of pet food – the same shelters that underwrite low-fee spay/neuter surgeries – that would likely incur the cost for the lion share of the pet food tax.

Rather than pass this unfair bill now, Seattle Humane wants to work with the shelters and rescue groups who provide direct services for animals to develop a fairer statewide spay/neuter bill for next year.

Seattle Humane Society has been awarded the coveted 4-star rating by Charity Navigator, America's largest independent charity evaluator. Founded in 1897 to bring people and pets together, Seattle Humane Society provides incredible companion animals for adoption 7 days a week, pet workshops and training, a pet food bank, a low-fee spay/neuter surgery program, humane teen club, a visiting pets program and more. Seattle Humane Society is located in Bellevue, at 13212 SE Eastgate Way. For directions and more information, visit www.seattlehumane.org or call (425) 641-0080.