

Spaying and Neutering of Pitbull Type Dogs

Questions & Answers

Q. Why is HSHV proposing the mandatory spaying/neutering of all Pitbull and Pitbull type dogs?

A. This action is being advanced due to concerns received from the public surrounding the increased number of Pitbull type dogs, commonly referred to as Pitbulls. Pitbulls are the top breed of dog impounded at the Humane Society of Huron Valley, where all Washtenaw County strays go, and are the number one type of dog euthanized. During 2009 alone there were almost 500 Pitbulls at the Humane Society of Huron Valley. Sixty percent of these dogs ended up being euthanized. (Of all other dog breeds, only 14% were euthanized.) Pitbulls also represent the most commonly abused dogs in our community, used for dog fighting and too often owned by individuals not committed to their basic care. We propose to educate Pitbull owners as to the unique challenges surrounding this misunderstood breed; reduce the number of Pitbull type dogs within the community; reduce the number of impounded and euthanized Pitbulls; reduce the rampant abuse and neglect of these dogs; and decrease the cost to taxpayers and HSHV donors to address problems surrounding this breed of dog.

Q. Is this ordinance focusing on the vicious and dangerous dog perception of Pitbulls?

A. No, the objective is to decrease the number of Pitbull type dogs running at large in the community and to reduce impounds and euthanasia of this misunderstood breed.

Q. How does this affect me as an owner of a Pitbull type dog?

A. You will be required to spay/neuter your pit bull dog within 30 days of the implementation of this ordinance, as of January 1, 2011. If you do not sterilize your dogs within the 30 days, you may be issued a citation. The fine for the first offense is \$250. To avoid fines and penalties, we encourage all owners of Pitbull type dogs to comply with this ordinance.

Q. What if I do not have the money to have my dog sterilized?

A. The County holding facility, the Humane Society of Huron Valley, offers low cost spay/neuter services, and for a limited time will offer free spay/neuter of Pitbull type dogs in areas of Washtenaw County. This will also include rabies and distemper vaccinations.

Q. Are there other benefits of Spay/Neutering? YES!

- Decreases aggressive behavior, including dog bites
- Decreases desire to run stray, therefore less likely to be injured in fights or auto accidents
- Eliminates or decreases risk of various cancers
- Helps eliminate problems with marking and other dominance behaviors
- Helps dogs live longer, healthier lives



