



To the Editor:

Dog owners who reside in the city of Oshkosh should be aware that the City Council is considering changes to the municipal code that will affect them and their dogs. While there are some changes that will benefit dogs and improve their welfare, such as minimum guidelines for housing of animals in different weather conditions, there are others that would be difficult to enforce and will only serve to inconvenience law-abiding citizens while doing nothing to improve the welfare of dogs in Oshkosh. These include, mandatory spay and neutering of all dogs who are not involved in competition events, and special restrictions placed on owners of dogs of specific breeds which are named in the document.

The Board of Directors of the Oshkosh Kennel Club has reviewed the potential changes and there are two major areas that we oppose: the mandatory spay/neuter requirements and the naming of specific breeds which are to be treated as dangerous dogs just by virtue of their breed. While we understand the need for rules on dangerous dogs, we hold the opinion that individual dogs should be treated as dangerous based on their actions, not their specific breed of dog. We also believe that the mandatory spay/neuter of dogs will do nothing to reduce the number of dogs that go to shelters each year as people will simply obtain dogs from those who do not follow the law or from people outside of the city, and the proposed municipal code as it is written would be difficult to enforce.

We believe the proposed municipal code could be re-worded to encourage responsible dog ownership and protect city residents from dangerous dogs, without imposing restrictions on responsible breeders and without discrimination to a specific breed.

We encourage all city residents who hold the same beliefs to contact your local city council members (http://www.ci.oshkosh.wi.us/City_Council_Directory.htm) and let them know that you oppose the proposed changes to the municipal code as it is currently written. You can view a copy of the proposed changes at (http://www.ci.oshkosh.wi.us/Municipal_Codes/Chapter_06_draft.PDF).

The Oshkosh Kennel Club will post our concerns and suggestions to the Municipal Code Chapter 6 proposed changes on our website (<http://www.oshkoshkennelclub.com>) after they have been finalized and sent to the Oshkosh Health Department. If you have any other questions please contact us for more information at (president@oshkoshkennelclub.com).

Sincerely,

Board of Directors
Oshkosh Kennel Club