

Talking Points Set #One

- ❖ Restricting one's right to own, breed or sell dogs will not in any way reduce dog overpopulation. The people who will be directly affected by such restrictions are law-abiding citizens who make an effort to obey all laws. The people you want this proposed law to affect are the people who obey no laws. Increased taxation on dog owners will only negatively affect those who pay the taxes in the first place, not those who ignore government.
- ❖ The people who need to be reached are the people that are invisible until they break a law. Please don't let their misconduct force law abiding citizens to either pay a great deal more money to stay within the law or leave the area entirely. Stringent enforcement of lease laws and penalties for those who allow their dogs to run loose is a much more effective way to attack overpopulation.
- ❖ Another point to consider is that increasing license fees has not been known to be successful. A city in Maryland increased its fee for neutered animals twofold and threefold for intact animals. The drop in numbered licensed was such that two years later, they rescinded the increases. It took five years for them to recoup the number of licensed dogs they had before the increase.
- ❖ There are many dog events throughout each locality. These events bring needed commerce to the cities located throughout the area. Onerous regulations, such as those outlined in the Mandatory Spay/Neuter ordinance proposed will drive those groups presenting these events elsewhere protest.
- ❖ Other jurisdictions that have enacted similar laws have lost revenue from caring and careful breeders of dogs. Using the American Kennel Club registry, breeders and dog show exhibitors will actively seek communities that do not restrict their activities.. Contact breeders and dog show exhibitors and ask them what they feel is a reasonable method of increasing responsible dog ownership.