

- ❖ **A registry approved by the department puts the Animal Control Department in the position of deciding which animal registry is valid. This would concern most citizens, much as a county department deciding which community group is valid for permits to assemble. It is the free choice of dog owners to belong or not to belong to a registry or a dog club of their choice, and they should not be penalized for making such choices.**
- ❖ **Dogs are often injured and are sometimes not exhibited for a year or more.**
- ❖ **Often, a conformation dog is "set aside" to mature before exhibiting in a conformation event.**
- ❖ **Compelling a dog owner to join a club or group would be challenged in court. Many individuals might participate in registry events without joining a club. For instance, AKC does not register individuals; they are a club of clubs. Yet an individual may register their dog with AKC and participate in AKC sanctioned events.**

- ❖ **Early spay/neutering of dogs has been incontrovertibly shown to be detrimental to the health, growth and mental functioning of a dog. It also has not been shown to have any positive effect on altering some sexual behaviors. (Note: can this be a legal challenge?)**

- ❖ **Requiring some types of dogs to be exempted, yet prohibiting other types of dog from this exemption is arbitrary and discriminatory**

- ❖ **Complaints are often unfounded and to act upon one complaint gives unlimited control to a citizen vigilante. A citizen complaint may be forthcoming due to a dislike of an individual rather than a legitimate complaint. A dog may be loose for a scant moment, and the unscrupulous citizen can depose that he saw the dog loose, skirting the truth of the situation.**

- ❖ **Many careful and knowledgeable breeders have followed the advice of their veterinarians to have back-to-back breedings. It is not the job of an Animal Control department to have dominion over the expertise of breeders or veterinarians. A healthy, well-cared-for dog may easily have more than five litters in her lifetime. Not all**

breeders would choose to do that, but it is the choice of the breeder to decide the health of their breeding dog.

- ❖ A breeder of purebred dogs often owns that dog with two or more persons. It is likely after a litter of pups are born, that one or more of the owners transfers a pup or more physically to a co-owner, and it just as likely that a co-owner may be in a different county or a different state. Tracking what the co-owner will do in this situation would be next to impossible. This response applies equally to all portions of 10.20.370**

- ❖ There are instances when a dog may accidentally escape; i.e., because of a thunderstorm or a visitor leaving a gate or door open. 10.20.380 allows no situation where this may happen, and the dog, in that case, should certainly not be altered. The situation where the Whippet escaped at the New York airport is a case in point.**