**Sample Letter to Legislators**

**Letter on Mandatory Spay/Neuter**

[Date]

[Official’s Name and Title]

[Official’s Address]

Dear \_\_\_\_,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I have lived in \_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_ years. I am writing to urge the \_\_\_\_ (city council/commission) not to pass a mandatory spay/neuter law. Such a law will not increase the number of sterilized animals in our community. Rather than spend more money on administering and enforcing another law, please consider expanding low-cost spay/neuter resources instead to achieve the (CITY COUNCIL/COMMISSION’S) goal.

I agree wholeheartedly that dogs and cats should be sterilized. However, there is no evidence that these laws are effective. One study showed that in homes where the income was $35,000 or higher, almost all cats (around 93%) were neutered, while 75% of unneutered cats live in homes where the income was less than $35,000. The lower-income owners who were interviewed primarily cited high cost as the reason for not neutering their cats. If you pass a mandatory spay/neuter law, you will be targeting people who are the least equipped to comply with it.

The second issue with mandatory spay/neuter laws is that the vast majority of the unsterilized animals in our area are feral and stray cats (also known as community cats). According to a study published in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, only 3 percent of community cats are sterilized as opposed to 82% of all pet cats. These animals do not have owners, so this law will not reach them. Instead, it will discourage the good Samaritans who currently care for community cats since they may not be able to spay or neuter every cat—either because some are hard to trap or because they don’t have the funds—leading to fewer cats being neutered overall. Mandatory spay/neuter laws are counterproductive. To decrease the number of animals entering our shelters, please expand low-cost spay/neuter resources.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]