

Boger, Linda

From: Cathy Unruh <Cathy.Unruh@tomcatmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 23, 2016 10:38 AM
To: Brightwell, Doug
Subject: Proposed ordinance changes regarding breeding

Doug,

Per your request that MEOW Now support the proposed changes to the Pinellas County breeding ordinance, I took a vote from our board of directors. The majority vote is to support the changes, but there is a clear dissent from the minority, which I trust that you will share with the commissioners.

Voting Yes on the MEOW Now board are Martha Boden (SPCATB), Stacey Hannouche (HSP), and Dan Hester (independent). I know that you are familiar with all of their positions on this matter, as agency heads and, in Dan's case, as a private citizen and companion animal advocate.

Voting No are Marilyn Weaver (independent) and myself (independent).

Marilyn has shared her opinion with you and the commissioners that the proposed changes are not nearly strong enough, will be overwhelmingly difficult to enforce, etc. I agree with Marilyn and, in particular, am mystified as to why there is no requirement for the male parent, if known, to be neutered.

I do not support breeding at all except for service dogs, including military and police. Thousands of companion animals are dying each year in our shelters for want of homes and yet we allow individuals to profit from exacerbating the problem by creating more. And let us not deceive ourselves that all of these animals are being bred as "pets."

It is my hope as a citizen, speaking for myself, that our county leadership - regardless of their personal opinions regarding animal welfare - will recognize that breeding is a problematic private business which ultimately costs county taxpayers a significant amount of money, and that you and they will continue to restrict breeding to the maximum extent that you are able.

However, as president of the board of MEOW Now, I am obligated to report the majority vote to support the current proposed changes.

Respectfully,

Cathy