

## California Spay/Neuter Bill On Hold

**The proposed legislation is sent back to the drawing board.**

Posted: April 16, 2007 5 a.m. PDT

A recently proposed bill that would have made spaying and neutering pet cats and dogs mandatory in California will be revised. (Stock photo) An ambitious plan in California to make the spaying or neutering of all pet cats and dogs mandatory is going back to the drawing board.

The legislation, Assembly Bill 1634, failed to clear its first hurdle April 10 after a California State Assembly committee requested a delay so that perceived flaws in the proposal can be fixed.

The bill would force pet owners to spay or neuter nearly all cats and dogs by the time they are 4 months old. Failure to comply would result in a \$500 fine. Cats and dogs used for breeding by licensed breeders would be exempt.

The spay and neuter legislation is aimed at reducing the euthanasia of about a half-million feral and roaming animals annually in California.

Opponents said it would impose a financial hardship on hobbyist breeders, who would have to pay to obtain permits.

At the April 10 committee meeting, more than 100 opponents of the bill attacked it, with some owners and breeders saying the legislation places an unreasonable burden on them. At the same meeting, a large number of groups and individuals spoke in favor of the bill.

The Assembly Business and Professions Committee postponed further consideration of the bill until just before an end-of-month legislative deadline.