

**Responses to Comments Received on the Pet Lover's License Plate Program
Comment Period: December 19, 2018 – January 3, 2019**

Comment	Response
<p>The American Kennel Club® (AKC) thanks you for the opportunity to submit comments on the spay/neuter grant program. AKC encourages pet owners to consider spaying or neutering their dogs at an appropriate age if they do not want to participate in AKC conformation events or engage in responsible breeding programs. The California Department of Food and Agriculture's Pet Lover's License Plate Program, which provides grants for these veterinary services, is a beneficial service to be offered to responsible pet owners.</p> <p>AKC is the nation's largest not-for-profit purebred dog registry. We are dedicated to ensuring that dogs in California and across the country live in safe, loving homes and are treated with the humane care they deserve. Together with our 471 AKC dog clubs throughout California, we are committed to public education, training, and promoting responsible dog ownership. We would welcome the opportunity to work with you and be a resource throughout the state in achieving these goals.</p> <p>The AKC understands that many dogs obtained from animal shelters will never participate in conformation events nor be used in a responsible breeding program. The spaying or neutering of these dogs is an effective option to prevent accidental breeding, which can result in unwanted puppies.</p> <p>However, the AKC opposes laws mandating the spaying/neutering of all dogs, as these restrictive laws harm responsible breeders. Recent scientific studies demonstrate that spaying/neutering, particularly before a dog is fully mature, may result in detrimental long-term</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment on the Pet Lover's License Plate Program.</p> <p>All feedback will be considered when finalizing the Request for Proposal.</p>

<p>health impacts. In light of this information, we encourage breeders, owners and veterinarians to consult on the appropriateness and timing of spaying or neutering an individual dog.</p> <p>The American Kennel Club believes euthanasia should be employed only as a last resort when all reasonable efforts to place adoptable dogs have failed. At the same time, the AKC recognizes that due to temperament and health issues, not all dogs are adoptable.</p>	
<p>Fully support what you're doing, and I'm so glad you're doing it.</p>	<p>Voicemail of support.</p>