



MAPS Recommended Solutions

MAPS recommends addressing the problem with problem dogs by reframing the issue as one of problem people and a phased in approach:

1. Educational efforts targeting areas of the city with the greatest need
2. Creation of a county wide Dane County Spay/Neuter Fund
3. Conduct an assessment of the effectiveness of current law enforcement

Public Outreach Program

MAPS recommends a major community outreach program in targeted problem areas of the city. The city has grown dramatically in diversity over the last 20 years. There are wide ranges of values, cultural, and economic differences that can impact the relationships of people and dogs in the community. Establish a more robust public community outreach program for providing ongoing education on and support on these components

1. Value of spay/neuter
2. Dog bite prevention
3. How to recognize and report neglect or abuse of animals
4. Guidelines for Responsible Pet Ownership
5. Guidelines to Ensure Proper Containment of dogs including fencing and waist leash system
6. Proactive Education Program for Grade school children
7. Free and Low Cost Spay and Neutering Services
8. Vaccination/Licensing/Training Clinics
9. Dog Ownership Education and Handling Classes
10. Public Incentive Program for Responsible Ownership

MAPS has many years experience directly working with people that would be affected by proposed hefty fines in the proposed legislation. This makes MAPS concerned that there will likely be large quantities of dogs dumped, literally, in the country to fend for themselves, potentially die and not show up in statistics. These dogs also could get dumped on shelters in Dane County or any of the surrounding counties. Many of these dogs get dumped by their owners saying they just found the dog as a stray in their neighborhood when they want to unburden themselves of the dog. The public outreach program should help people to find options for unwanted dogs including scaled up versions of programs like MAPS Foster Your Own Program, initiated in 2005, that has worked very successfully for eight years. MAPS works with the owners of the dog that they are considering relinquishing to a new owner with the help of MAPS. This program includes and not limited to:

1. Addressing the dogs management and training issues,
2. Dog gets microchipped,
3. Binding agreement puts tight constraints on what they can do with the dog,



4. Requires use of a waist leash and restraint system so the dog cannot easily break loose during dog walks,
5. MAPS provides routine medical care,
6. Dog gets a Wisdom Panel Professional DNA Breed ID,
7. Dog gets 4-star or 5-star food,
8. Daily supplements of Fish Oil and for older dogs Glucosamine and Vet recommended supplements.
9. MAPS does all screening of potential adopters

However, MAPS has limited resources and would quickly become overloaded if large quantities of dogs are dumped on the system. More programs like MAPS Foster Your Own need to be out in the community. They work extremely well.

Conduct assessment of Effectiveness of Current Law Enforcement

MAPS recommends conducting an independent assessment of the effectiveness of current law enforcement of animal laws/ordinances and recommendations for more effective enforcement as appropriate.

Dane County Spay/Neuter Fund for Low Income Residents

- Expand the current Spay/Neuter Assistance Program with a County Wide "Dane County Spay/Neuter Fund for Low Income Residents". This fund would be allocated to the neediest in Dane County, Wisconsin.
- Put Dane County Spay/Neuter Fund for Low Income Residents Donation Boxes at Pet Stores, Dog Day care centers, Grooming Shops, Specialty Vet Clinics like surgical centers, holistic medicine, acupuncture services (demographic that might feel more of internal obligation to help the dogs compromised by low income living environment at no fault of their own), Vet Clinics etc
- Contact a wide range of potential corporate/foundation donors and ask if they will be interested in supporting a market that can demonstrate it strongly supports dogs of the less fortunate. During this solicitation see if the company/corporation/foundation will provide some sort of match funds or if Madison metro area reaches some sort of set of donation thresholds they promise to increase donations in proportion to potential customers to them.