

## **Mandatory Spay Neuter Ordinance**

As currently proposed, the initiative would require the sterilization of all dogs and cats within the County of Riverside.

Exemptions would be granted for qualifying animals:

- Service animals i.e. guide dogs, police dogs
- Working dogs, for example herding dogs
- Registered breed stock, AKC, Cat Fanciers Association etc.
- Sporting or show dogs and cats
- Animals boarding and training at licensed facilities.

The Ordinance also defines:

1. Owner
2. Custodian
3. Competition dog or cat
4. Animals which are incapable of breeding

Additionally, the proposal provides a process to address:

1. The denial or revocation of an un-altered license
2. Appeals
3. Transfers and sales
4. Impoundment by Animal Control
5. Penalties and the allocation of fees
6. Conditions which may prevent sterilization, including age and/or illness
7. The ability of the pet owning public to have their animals sterilized by:
  - A- taking effect 6 months from approval by the Board of Supervisors
  - B- linking the initiative with existing low-cost spay/neuter services provided by the County, Humane Organizations and other NGO's, and specifically the **POPCO** program which includes the \$150,000 Spay/Neuter grant established by the County earlier this fiscal year.

### **What it does not do, is:**

**change the licensing fee structure for altered or unaltered pets.**

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