

Hitchcock Road Animal Services

Referral 2025.10 Update

Presented by:

**Elsa Mendoza Jimenez,
Director of Health Services**

**Cindy Burnham,
HRAS Animal Services Administrator**



Title:

Introduce, waive first reading, and set July 7, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. as the date and time to consider adoption of an ordinance amending Chapters 8.04 and 8.08 of the Monterey County Code to require spaying and neutering of dogs and cats, while allowing certain exceptions.

Summary:

Board Referral No. 2025.10 was issued by Supervisor Alejo and assigned to the Health Department on August 26, 2025. On June 9, 2026, the Board of Supervisor requested a draft ordinance that mirrors the City of Seaside's Spay/Neuter ordinance.

Section 8.04.010 amended to insert definitions:

“Neutered” refers to the procedure performed by a licensed veterinarian on male animals, under anesthesia, to remove testicles to prevent breeding.

“Spayed” refers to the procedure performed by a licensed veterinarian on female animals, under anesthesia, to remove the ovaries and uterus to prevent breeding.

Chapter 8.08 amended to the following:

Chapter 8.08 - Vaccination, Vaccination Certificate, License, and *Mandatory Spaying and Neutering*.

8.08.060 amended to add: Mandatory Spaying and Neutering

This ordinance requires spay/neuter of dogs over 6 months and cats over 5 months unless holds an unaltered animal certificate.

This ordinance holds that any person providing care or substance for a dog or cat, including feral cats, is the owner of such dog *and cat*.

Exemptions

- Dogs documented as having been appropriately trained and actually being used by public law enforcement agencies for law enforcement purposes, or dogs designated as breeding stock for law enforcement purposes by an appropriate agency or organization approved by the Animal Control Officer after consultation with knowledgeable professionals;
- Dogs or cats certified by a licensed veterinarian as having a health reason for not being spayed/neutered; or
- Dogs or cat which are owned and in the custody and control of persons who do not reside in the unincorporated area of Monterey County, but who are temporarily visiting Monterey County or traveling through Monterey County.

Unaltered Animal Certificate

- For animals over the age of 6 months.
- No more than 2 violations of this Chapter within preceding 24 months.
- The animal is housed and cared for as follows:
 - The animal is provided sufficient quantity of good and wholesome food and water;
 - The animal is provided shelter that will allow the animal to stand up, turn around, and lie down without lying in his/her feces;
 - The area where the animal is kept is properly cleaned and disinfected;
 - The animal must be fully contained on the owner's property and be provided appropriate exercise; and
 - The animal owner otherwise complies with any applicable state or local law concerning the care and housing of animals.
- The owner of an unaltered female dog furnished the ACO with a signed statement agreeing that the female unaltered animal will have no litters per year, unless also obtains and maintains a permit for breeding the animal.

Breeding permit

- Required in addition to an Unaltered Animal Certificate.
- Written authorization, issued by ACO, giving permission to breed a dog or cat.
- Valid for one year and may be renewed annually prior to the expiration date.
- Each applicant shall pay an annual fee.
- Persons convicted of animal cruelty or neglect do not qualify.
- Additionally,
 - Breeder permit number must be displayed on advertising.
 - Permit number to be provided to any person who purchases, adopt or receives an animal and included on any receipts or transfer documents.
 - Will not be issued for animals under 12 months or over 7 years of age.
 - Records shall be maintained for 3 years, containing the name, address and phone number of the new owner, on a form approved by ACO.
 - Animals sold or otherwise transferred shall provide to the new owner information on license and permit requirements of the County
 - All puppies must be microchipped or have some other form of identification acceptable to the ACO and shall be licensed by the County.

Violations

- First time violators receive a correction notice and have 60 days to comply.
- Second violations may result in an administration citation for the violation with a civil penalty of not more than \$500.
- Third or subsequent violations may result in an administration citation for the violation with civil penalties of not more than \$750.

Enforcement

- Education – resource flyers, website, social media, in the field/shelter.
- Correction Notices
- Administrative Citations

This ordinance requires the Animal Control Officer to establish and administer a certification program that includes an Unaltered Animal Certificate and a Breeding Permit.

The Animal Control Officer will also establish an administrative citation process.

**Consider
adoption of
ordinance set
for:**

**July 7, 2026, at
10:30 am**

