

# Monterey County Rooster Keeping Enforcement Update

ANIMAL SERVICES BUREAU

HEALTH, HOUSING AND HUMAN  
SERVICE COMMITTEE

MARCH 8, 2022

Presented by Cindy Burnham,  
Animal Services Administrator





# Overview

---

1. Ordinance
2. Application Process
3. Prior and Current Enforcement
4. Location of Cases
5. Questions

# About M.C. Ordinance 5249

---



***The purpose of the Rooster Ordinance is to balance the legitimate interests of agricultural businesses and agricultural educational organizations with the prevention of rooster keeping that is unsanitary, environmentally damaging, inhumane, and conducive to illegal cockfighting.***

**As of July 14, 2015, no Rooster Keeping Operation can legally operate in the unincorporated areas of Monterey County without either a permit exemption or a permit.**

- Requires permitting for Rooster Keeping Operations where 5 or more roosters are kept on any single property within the unincorporated areas of Monterey County.
- 4 limited exemptions may apply
- The Animal Control Officer is the main point of contact and enforcement for this permitting ordinance.

# Exemptions

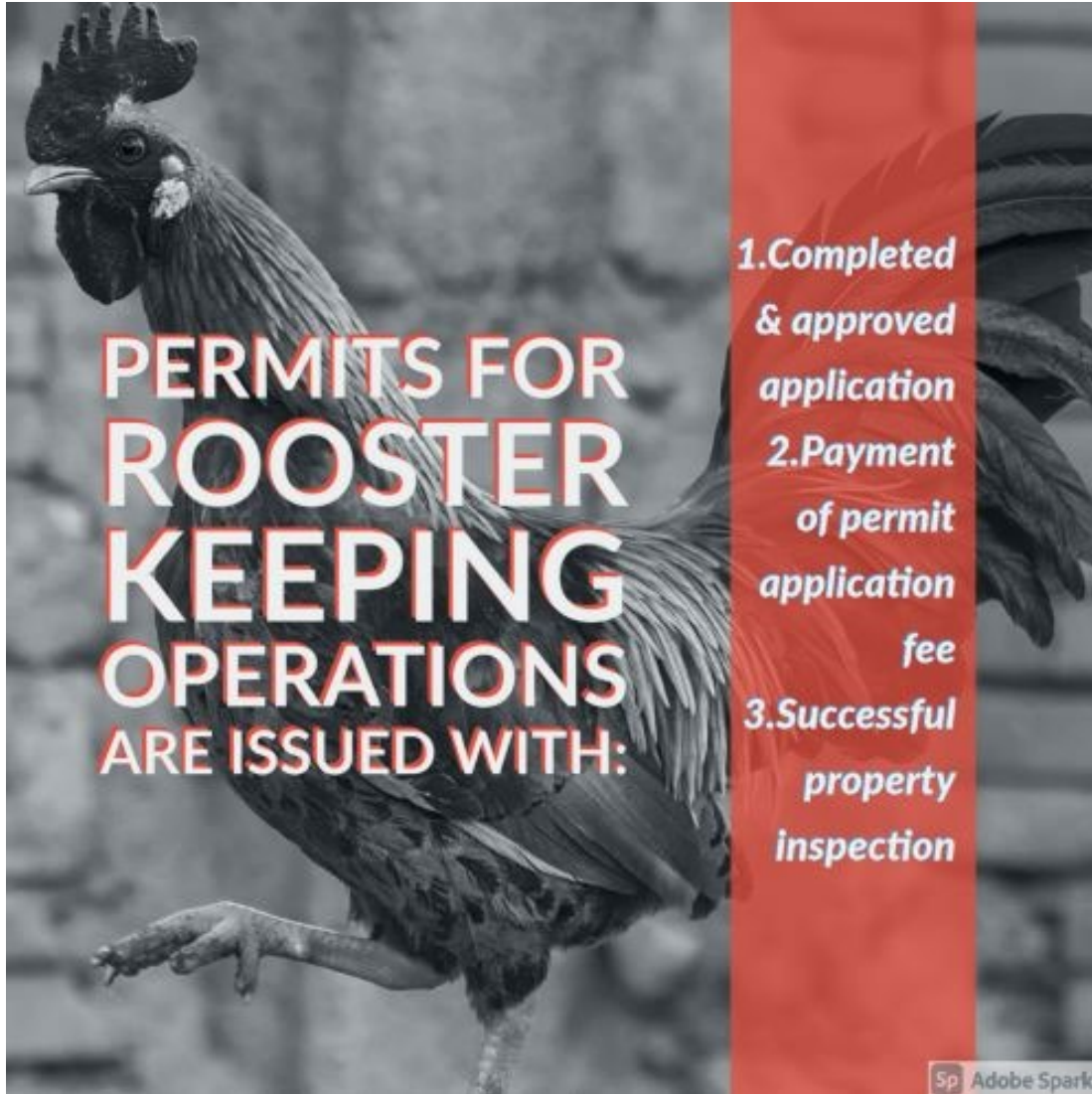
---



- Poultry Operation – A poultry operation is primarily a business that raises poultry for meat or eggs. \*
- Poultry Hobbyist – A poultry hobbyist is typically a member of an organization that promotes breeding of poultry for exhibition or sale or supports breeding as a hobby. \*
- Educational Purpose – The rooster keeping operation is conducted by minors and sponsored by public or private schools registered with the California Department of Education. \*\*
- FFA / 4-H – The rooster keeping operation is conducted by minors and is part of a National Future Farmers of America (FFA) project or a University of California 4-H Youth Development Program (4-H) project. \*\*

Agricultural Commissioner approves \*

Animal Services approves \*\*



# About the application process

---

- Each rooster owner per parcel must have a permit.
- Parcel must be properly zoned for rooster/poultry keeping
- All building setbacks/zoning requirements must comply
- Existing violations will delay or result in permit denial, to include noise violations.
- Permits issued are for one year and must be renewed annually.
- It can take approximately 60 days to get a permit



Humane and adequate enclosures

---

Rooster Operation Site Map

Facility Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Nombre de las instalaciones)

Facility Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(Dirección de las instalaciones)



**Monterey County Animal Services**

Field Services: 160 Hitchcock Road, Salinas, CA 93908 \* (831) 769-8856

**- Form 100**

(Monterey County Code section 8.50.040)

**Instructions:**

1. Complete application form to include required documentation
2. Submit complete application with required documentation and non-refundable application fee.

*Please Read Carefully and Print Legibly!*

**Rooster Owner Contact Information**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Secondary Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Property Owner Contact Information**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Secondary Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

# Prior to 2021

- 2016/2017 – 20 permits initially issued
  - None renewed due to constraints within Animal Services
- 2019/2020 – ACO and OAI vacancies filled, and training began
  - Website updated in Spanish and English
  - Forms updated
  - Internal processes reviewed and streamlined

**English**

Rooster Keeping Permit Application - [Rooster Permit English Form 100](#)

FFA/4-H Exemption Application Form 110 - [Rooster Exemption English Form 110](#)

Hobbyist Exemption Application Form 120 - [Rooster Exemption English Form 120](#)

Manure & Pest Management Plan Template - [Manure and Pest Management Plan English Template](#)

Site Map template - [Site Map English and Spanish Template](#)

**Spanish**

del Gallos Formulario 100 - [Rooster Permit Spanish Form 100](#)

de FFA/4-H Formulario 110 - [Rooster FFA-4H Exemption Spanish Form 110](#)

ención de operación avícola o aficionado Formulario 120 - [Rooster Hobbyist exemption Spanish Form 120](#)

manejara y plagas - [Manure and Pest Management Plan Spanish Template](#)

io de la operación del gallo - [Site Map English and Spanish Template](#)



# 2021 Enforcement

---

- OAI, ACOS and Supervisor were key staff involved
  - 2 ACOS required for each inspection
  - Enforcement was in addition to other calls for service
- Rooster Keeping Task Force created
  - Goal: Facilitate the gathering of information on a regular basis to:
    - Assist in the enforcement of Chapter 8.50 as it relates to safety, violations, exemptions
    - Allow for increased communication between various departments, both in and out of the County system.
    - Improve the quality of life of animals in our community, starting with roosters.
  - Involved Agencies/Departments: Sheriff, Environmental Health, Housing and Community Development, Ag Commissioner, County Council, District Attorney, SPCA for Monterey County and District 2 Supervisor Office.



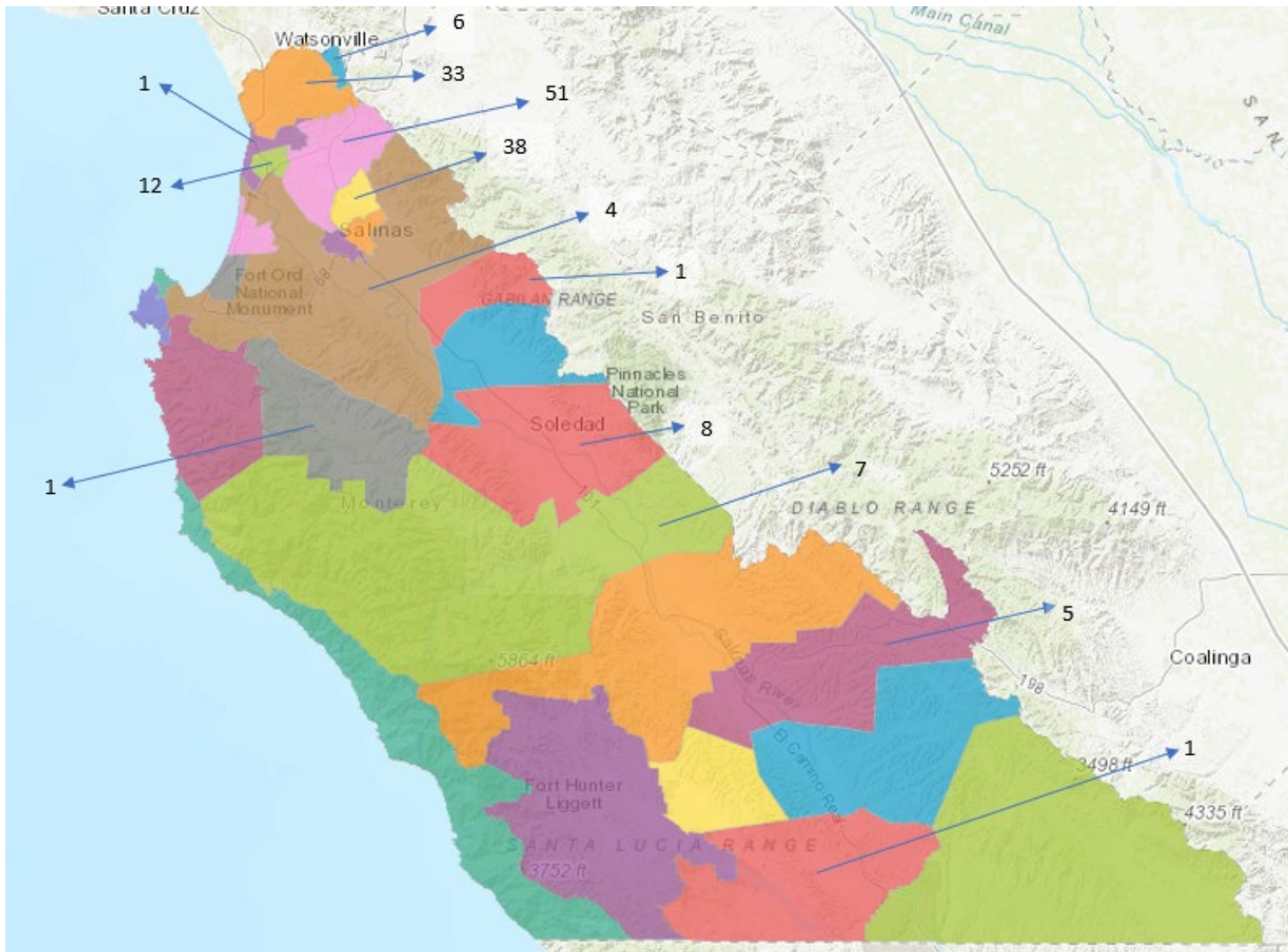
# 2021 Enforcement

---

- 66 initial rooster keeping application packets mailed out
  - By December 2021, over 168 addresses had been mailed rooster keeping packets due to complaints or requests
    - ❑ Issued 11 rooster keeping permits (10 in North County and 1 in South County).
    - ❑ Cleared over 60 addresses by verifying under 5 roosters.
    - ❑ Issued 18 Cease and Desist Letters requiring compliance.
    - ❑ Issued 15 citations for non-compliance.
    - ❑ Continue to work over 65 cases in various application status.
    - ❑ Received over 65 permit applications fees.



# Where are efforts happening?



73% of cases and applications were from 3 Zip codes:

- 93907 (Prunedale, Oak Hills)
- 93906 (Bolsa Knolls, Boronda)
- 95076 (Royal Oaks)

The remaining 27% of cases and applications:

- 14% North of Chualar (95012, 93908, 95004, 95039)
- 13% Chualar and South) (93925, 93960, 93954, 93426)
- .60% Carmel Valley (93924)

Any Questions?

