

**Monterey County Board of Supervisors
Referral Submittal Form**

**Referral No. 2025.10
Assignment Date: 08/26/25**

SUBMITTAL - Completed by referring Board office and returned to CAO no later than noon on Thursday prior to Board meeting:

Date: 8/13/2025	Submitted By: Luis Alejo	District #: 1
Referral Title: Monterey County Spay and Neuter Ordinance for Cats and Dogs		
Referral Purpose: The purpose of this referral is to enact a Spay and Neuter Ordinance for cats and dogs to address pet overpopulation, euthanasia rates, and overcrowded shelters with minimal staffing.		
Brief Referral Description: Monterey County's communities face a persistent challenge with pet overpopulation, resulting in overcrowded animal shelters, increased euthanasia rates, and avoidable public health and safety concerns. Without a proactive policy, stray and unwanted animals continue to multiply, placing a financial and emotional burden on residents, animal control services, and nonprofit rescue and spay/neuter organizations, like SNIP.		
A county spay and neuter ordinance would require most dogs and cats in unincorporated areas to be surgically sterilized, with reasonable exemptions for licensed breeders, working animals, and those with medical conditions. This approach directly addresses the root cause of overpopulation by preventing unwanted litters before they occur. Such an ordinance would: • Reduce shelter intake and euthanasia rates, freeing resources for adoption, rehabilitation, and humane care. • Lower taxpayer costs associated with animal control, sheltering, and enforcement. • Improve public safety by decreasing roaming animals, dog bites, abandoned pets & vehicle-animal collisions. • Enhance animal welfare by reducing suffering, neglect, and the spread of disease among stray populations. By adopting a spay and neuter ordinance, Monterey County can demonstrate compassionate, fiscally responsible leadership and protect both its residents and animals. The leadership of the County of Monterey can also inspire the remaining 11 cities to also adopt similar policies. In Monterey County, only one city out of 12 have adopted mandatory spay/neuter ordinances: • City of Seaside: In November 2024, the city passed an ordinance that requires cats over 5 months and dogs over 6 months to be spayed or neutered. Ordinance went into effect 30 days later in December 2024.		
Classification - Implication		Mode of Response
☐ Ministerial / Minor ☐ Land Use Policy ☐ Social Policy ☐ Budget Policy ☒ Other: <u>Animal Services/Health Dept.</u>	☐ Memo ☒ Board Report ☒ Presentation	
	Requested Response Timeline	
	☐ 2 weeks ☒ 1 month ☐ 8 weeks	
	☐ Status reports until completed ☐ Other: _____ ☐ Specific Date: _____	

**ASSIGNMENT – Provided by CAO at Board Meeting. Copied to Board Offices and Department Head(s)
Completed by CAO's Office:**

Department(s): <u>Health Department</u>	Referral Lead: <u>Elsa Jimenez</u>	Board Date: <u>08/26/25</u>
---	---------------------------------------	-----------------------------

REASSIGNMENT – Provided by CAO. Copied to Board Offices and Department Head(s). Completed by CAO's Office:

Department(s):	Referral Lead:	Original Date:
----------------	----------------	----------------

ANALYSIS - Completed by Department and copied to Board Offices and CAO:

Department analysis of resources required/impact on existing department priorities to complete referral:	
Analysis Completed By:	Department's Recommended Response Timeline

_____ Date: _____	☐ By requested date ☐ 2 weeks ☐ 1 month ☐ 6 weeks ☐ 6 months ☐ 1 year ☐ Other/Specific Date: _____
---------------------------------	--

REFERRAL RESPONSE/COMPLETION - Provided by Department to Board Offices and CAO:

Referral Response Date:	Board Item No.:	Referrals List Deletion:
-------------------------	-----------------	--------------------------