



County of Monterey Board of Supervisors

Board Order

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A motion was made by Supervisor Wendy Root Askew, seconded by Supervisor Luis A. Alejo to:

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.

It was noted that this will be placed on the consent calendar for final approval, however, can be pulled if requested. The ordinance had one correction to ensure the text consistently reflects that the penalty for a third and subsequent violation is \$750 (correcting a finding on the first page that inadvertently listed \$1,000).

Additional direction was given by the Board:

Breeder Permit Fee Schedule:

Staff was directed to establish and return to the Board as soon as possible with a separate fee schedule reflecting the actual administrative costs of processing the new breeder permits.

Review of Penalties & Fines:

Due to concerns that the current fines (\$500 for a second violation, \$750 for subsequent violations) would not adequately deter "backyard breeders" making thousands of dollars per litter, staff will review options for stronger or tiered penalties.

Automatic Escalation of Violations:

Staff will draft future language to clarify that if a first-time violation is not cured and corrected within the 60-day window, it will automatically escalate into a secondary violation fine, eliminating the ambiguity of code enforcement discretion.

Program Cost Analysis:

Staff must provide information regarding the overall cost and financial impact of running the new certification, education, and enforcement programs.

Annual Update:

These future amendments and programmatic updates are scheduled to return to the Board alongside an annual update in one year.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on this 23rd day of June 2026, by roll call vote:

AYES: Supervisors Alejo, Church, Root Askew, and Daniels

NOES: None

ABSENT: Supervisor Lopez

Supervisor Lopez not present when vote was called

ALL AYES (4-0)

I, Valerie Ralph, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Monterey, State of California, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of an original order of said Board of Supervisors duly made and entered in the minutes thereof of Minute Book 82 for the meeting June 23, 2026.

Dated: June 25, 2026

File ID: ORD 26-008

Agenda Item No.: 23

Valerie Ralph, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
County of Monterey, State of California


Margarita Hernandez, Deputy