



County of Monterey

Item No.

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: ORD 26-009

July 07, 2026

Introduced: 6/26/2026

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 2

Matter Type: Ordinance

Adopt an ordinance amending Chapters 8.04 and 8.08 of the Monterey County Code to mandate spaying and neutering of dogs and cats and creating a permitting process for keeping unaltered animals and breeding animals, while allowing certain exemptions.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the County of Monterey Board of Supervisors:
Adopt an ordinance amending Chapters 8.04 and 8.08 of the Monterey County Code to mandate spaying and neutering of dogs and cats and creating a permitting process for keeping unaltered animals and breeding animals, while allowing certain exemptions.

SUMMARY:

On June 23, 2026, the Board of Supervisors introduced and waived the first reading of the ordinance and advanced the ordinance for consideration of adoption at the meeting on July 7, 2026, at 10:30 a.m.

DISCUSSION:

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.

The ordinance has been revised accordingly with minor revisions to allow for consistency with the existing Monterey County Code.

This ordinance requires spay/neuter of dogs over 6 months and cats over 5 months. It requires the Animal Control Officer to establish and administer a certification program that includes an Unaltered Animal Certificate (UAC and a Breeding Permit (BP). Fees for the UAC and BP will be determined following the County's protocol for fee establishment.

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 (fine) of not more than \$500. Third or subsequent violations may result in an administration citation for the violation with civil penalties (fine) of not more than \$750.

Enforcement will include education, correction notices and may include administration citations.

This work supports the County of Monterey Health Department 2025-2028 Strategic Plan Goal(s): Goal 4: Deepen Organizational effectiveness and support long term sustainability.

It also supports the following of the ten essential public health services, specifically:
Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/COMMITTEE ACTIONS:

The Office of County Counsel has reviewed this ordinance and made the minor revisions consistent with the existing Monterey County Code.

FINANCING:

At this time, there is no estimated cost to enforce. Animal Services is to return one after adoption of the ordinance with a review of costs for the Board.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS:

This ordinance seeks to improve the health of animals in the community tying in the Well-being and Quality of life.

Mark a check next to the related Board of Supervisors Strategic Plan Goals:

- Well-Being and Quality of Life
- Sustainable Infrastructure for the Present and Future
- Safe and Resilient Communities
- Diverse and Thriving Economy

Prepared by: Cindy Burnham, Animal Services Administrator, 769-8796

Approved by: Elsa Mendoza Jimenez, Director of Health Services, 755-4526

Attachments:

- Board Report
- Draft Ordinance