

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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Supervisors Seek Pit Bull Spay/Neuter Ordinance

SAN BERNARDINO – An ordinance requiring all pit bull and pit bull-type dogs in the unincorporated areas of San Bernardino County to be spayed or neutered will be considered by the Board of Supervisors on June 22.

"The public is clearly concerned about the overpopulation of pit bull-type dogs in our county. This ordinance will control the pit bull population and keep the county from having to house and eventually destroy so many of these dogs," said First District Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt, who worked with the county's Animal Care & Control Division to create the proposed ordinance.

The ordinance would require all owners of pit bull and pit bull-type dogs over the age of 4 months to have their dogs spayed or neutered. Additionally all such dogs used for breeding and housed in a licensed dog kennel will be required to be licensed.

State law (California Health and Safety Code Sections 122330-122331) prohibits any breed of dog from being deemed potentially dangerous or vicious. However, the law allows local agencies to enact breed-specific programs for spaying and neutering to control over-population.

"Our ultimate goal is to make San Bernardino County a safe community for residents and their pets. This ordinance goes as far as state law will allow us to go in addressing an issue that is clearly of great concern to the public," said Third District Supervisor Neil Derry, who also worked with Animal Care & Control to create the ordinance and is co-sponsoring it with Supervisor Mitzelfelt.

Pit bull-type dogs represent about 20 percent of all dogs admitted to county animal shelters. They are one of the top three breeds impounded at county shelters and are the number one breed to be euthanized.

"The objective is to decrease the number of pit bull and pit bull-type dogs running at large in the community, and reduce impounds and euthanasia of this breed while decreasing costs to taxpayers," said Brian Cronin, division chief for Animal Care and Control, a division of the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health.

Pit bull owners will be required to spay or neuter their dogs within 30 days of implementation of the ordinance. Animal Care and Control will help pet owners comply with the ordinance by offering humane education and spay-neuter voucher to those who are eligible.

For more information or to access San Bernardino County Animal Care and Control services call 1-800-472-5609, or visit the division's website at www.sbcounty.gov/acc.