



**City of Moreno Valley
Community Development Department
Mandatory Spay & Neuter of Dogs and Cats**

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Question: Why did the City of Moreno Valley enact a Mandatory Spay and Neuter Ordinance for Dogs and Cats?

Answer: The City of Moreno Valley realizes the need to reduce the overpopulation of pets in the community. In most cases the overpopulation of pets is directly caused by irresponsible pet owners. The overpopulation of pets is evidenced by the ongoing increase in the number of stray and unwanted pets impounded at the Moreno Valley Animal Shelter. The objectives of the ordinance, passed by the City Council on October 11, 2011 are to:

- Reduce the number of homeless and unwanted companion animals by uncontrolled and irresponsible breeding.
- Reduce the number of impounded animals at the Moreno Valley Animal Shelter.
- Reduce the euthanasia of pets for whom homes cannot be found.
- Reduce the tax burden for responsible pet owners.
- Require irresponsible pet owners to be held accountable.

Question: How does this ordinance affect me as a pet owner living in the City of Moreno Valley?

Answer: This ordinance does not affect you if you are in full compliance with local and state laws regarding the keeping and maintaining of your pets. If you are found in violation of a local or state animal control regulation you will be required to have your pet (dog or cat) spayed or neutered (sterilization of a dog or cat means it can no longer produce a litter of puppies or kittens). Below are just a few examples of violations of a local or state animal control regulation:

- Loose dog running at large (leash law violation).
- Failure to possess a rabies vaccination for a dog over 4 months old.
- Failure to possess a current dog license.
- Habitual animal noise.

Question: Are there any exemptions allowed in the Mandatory Spay and Neuter Ordinance for Cats and Dogs?

Answer: Yes. The list of exemptions is:

- A dog or cat with a high likelihood of suffering serious bodily harm or death if spayed or neutered as determined by a California licensed veterinarian.
- Animals recognized and registered with the American Kennel Club (AKC), United Kennel Club (UKC) or other national registry.
- A dog used by law enforcement or the military for law enforcement, military or rescue activities.
- A qualified service or assistance dog as defined in California Food & Agricultural Code Section 30850.

Question: How will I benefit from having my pet spayed or neutered?

Answer: According to the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) having your pet spayed or neutered helps the pet, the pet owner and the community. As a pet owner you no longer have the worry or obligation to find homes for litters of puppies or kittens. (All too often these litters end up in a shelter once they become difficult to handle or repeat the breeding cycle.) With more good news for the pet owner, medical evidence indicates that females spayed before their first heat are typically healthier. Neutering male dogs will not affect their personality, improves their behavior and reduces their tendency to wander. Spaying and neutering companion animal has a positive impact on the community as a whole by reducing the pet overpopulation problem. Be part of the solution in ensuring humane treatment of all pets.

Question: Do other cities have similar spay and neuter ordinances?

Answer: Yes. The cities of Riverside and San Bernardino have mandatory ordinances along with many other cities in Southern California. Riverside County enacted a spay/neuter ordinance in 2009 while San Bernardino County enacted a spay/neuter ordinance for dogs 2011.