



RESOLUTION NO. 2009-74

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SENATE BILL 250, THE PET RESPONSIBILITY ACT

WHEREAS, The State of California spends over \$250 million dollars each year housing and euthanizing homeless dogs and cats in California; and

WHEREAS, Of the approximately 1 million dogs and cats that enter California's shelters each year over half are euthanized due to a lack of homes; and

WHEREAS, Every dog born in the state of California today has nearly a 1 in 4 chance of ultimately becoming homeless and dying in a shelter; and

WHEREAS, Two-thirds of the cats entering California shelters are ultimately euthanized; and

WHEREAS, Current law only charges a higher rate to license unaltered cats and dogs but does not require that they are spayed and neutered; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 250 would require all dogs to be spayed or neutered unless the owner obtains an unaltered dog license; and

WHEREAS, SB 250 would also require cats to be spayed or neutered if they are allowed to wander outdoors; and

WHEREAS, SB 250 will encourage responsible pet ownership and reduce animal over population in California and Fresno; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Fresno does hereby find that enactment of Senate Bill 250 by the Legislature of the State of California would be in the best interest of the City of Fresno.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)

COUNTY OF FRESNO) ss.

CITY OF FRESNO)

Adopted _____
Approved 3/31/09
Effective _____



I, REBECCA E. KLISCH, City Clerk of the City of Fresno, certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Council of the City of Fresno, at a regular meeting held on the 31st day of March, 2009.

AYES	:	Borgeas, Brand, Caprioglio, Dages, Perea, Xiong, Sterling
NOES	:	None
ABSENT	:	None
ABSTAIN	:	None

REBECCA E. KLISCH

City Clerk

BY: *Rebecca E. Klisch*

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

BY: *N/A*



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A SCIL Fact Sheet – February, 2009

California's SB 250 The Pet Responsibility Act – How it Works

Under **SB 250 The Pet Responsibility Act**, all dogs must be spayed or neutered, unless their owner obtains an unaltered dog license. All cats must be spayed or neutered, if the owner allows the cat to roam outdoors.

SB 250 The Pet Responsibility Act encourages pet owners to spay their pets through utilizing California's existing licensing system:

Current Law:	SB 250 Additions to Current Law:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dogs and cats that are spayed or neutered are licensed at a reduced rate. Dogs and cats that are not spayed or neutered are licensed at a higher rate. All fees and the costs are determined by the local jurisdiction, and all hearings and due process regarding tickets and licensing are held in accordance with the local jurisdiction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If an owner is cited for having an unlicensed, intact dog, the owner must spay or neuter and obtain a license. The citation for owning an unaltered dog or cat can be issued only when the unaltered animal is concurrently cited for some other violation. If a cat is outdoors it must be spayed or neutered.

*Please note: Under current law, all dogs must be licensed. Current law has provisions for cat licensing, but it is not mandated. SB 250 does *not* create a mandate for cat licensing.

SB 250 – In Detail

- Spaying and neutering:** Dogs 6 months or older must be spayed or neutered, unless owner obtains an unaltered dog license or provides a certificate of sterility.
- Roaming cats:** Cats 6 months or older must be spayed or neutered, if the owner allows the animal to roam outdoors.
- Exemptions:** Animals likely to suffer harm from the surgery, due to age or illness, are exempt.
- Denial / revocations:** Unaltered licenses may be denied or revoked if:
 - Occurrences of roaming or neglect are documented by animal control
 - The owner has been previously cited for violating animal care laws
 - The dog is deemed dangerous
 Denied / Revoked licenses can be appealed and the owner can reapply after 30 days.
- Sale:** If a dog or cat is transferred or sold, the license number must be documented for the new owner.
- Penalties:** A penalty for owning an unaltered animal can only be issued when the unaltered animal is concurrently cited for some other violation. Persons cited for unaltered animal must have the animal spayed or neutered.
- Impoundment:** Impounded animals not in compliance with the law must be spayed or neutered (by the shelter or a private vet) to secure release of the animal.

Please support **SB 250 The Pet Responsibility Act**. For more information visit www.YESonSB250.com.



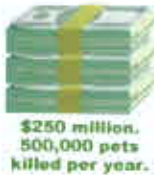
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California's SB 250 The Pet Responsibility Act – Overview

Each year, over \$250 million dollars is spent housing and euthanizing homeless dogs and cats in California¹. Approximately 1 million dogs and cats enter California's shelters each year, and over half of them are euthanized (killed) simply because there are not enough homes².



\$250 million.
500,000 pets
killed per year.

This enormous number of homeless pets actually means that every dog born in the state of California today has nearly a 1 in 4 chance of ultimately becoming homeless and dying in a shelter³. Two-thirds of the cats entering California shelters are euthanized². And, the number of dogs and cats entering our shelters is currently on the rise².

SB 250 provides a reasonable, fiscally responsible step towards reducing pet overpopulation in California. The bill simply requires that dogs be spayed or neutered unless their owner/guardian obtains an unaltered dog license when they license their animal.

SB 250 also requires that roaming cats be spayed and neutered by their owner/guardian.

SB 250 The Pet Responsibility Act, is:

- **Fair.** Licensed dogs may be left unaltered if the owner/guardian chooses. Owners cited for violating local or state laws may have their license revoked or be required to spay or neuter.
- **Fiscally responsible.** SB 250 saves the state millions of dollars by reducing homeless pets.
- **Proven.** Spay and neuter laws have been shown effective for over 10 years. In one community, the number of homeless animals was reduced by over 60% after a similar law was implemented⁴.
- **Forward thinking.** Similar spay and neuter legislation is currently being introduced across the country, as legislators nationwide confront the high costs associated with pet overpopulation.
- **Provides due process.** A full and fair hearing process is provided for matters related to citations.
- **Flexible.** License costs, fines and implementation details are at the discretion of local jurisdictions.
- **Widely supported.** A diverse coalition of elected officials, law enforcement agencies, city and county agencies, humane societies and SPCAs, veterinarians and veterinary hospitals, national animal welfare organizations, California rescue organizations, and thousands of individuals and organizations support spay and neuter legislation like SB 250.

The time has come for SB 250 The Pet Responsibility Act, a common sense, fiscally responsible method for reducing California's tragic, expensive pet overpopulation crisis.

For more information visit www.YESonSB250.com.

Sources: (1) Shelter cost estimates provided by Los Angeles Animals Services and California Animal Control Directors Association. (2) Population / percentages of animals incoming and exiting shelters, source: California Department of Public Health, Veterinary Public Health Section, "Rabies Control Activities Reporting by Local Health Jurisdiction (LHJ), California, 1995-2007, extrapolated to encompass incomplete data and private shelters. (3) From NEARLY ONE OUT OF FOUR DOGS IN CALIFORNIA IS ULTIMATELY EUTHANIZED IN OUR SHELTERS, a SCIL fact sheet based on figures from the US Census Bureau, American Pet Products Manufacturers Association and the California Department of Health Services. (4) Shelter intake and euthanasia numbers provided by Santa Cruz County Animal Services.

