



For Immediate Release

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**San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors
Advances Plans for Mandatory Spay/Neuter Ordinance**

Stockton, CA – At its meeting on Tuesday, the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors voted to consider implementation of a mandatory spay/neuter ordinance aimed at addressing growing concerns over pet overpopulation, shelter overcrowding, and rising public costs associated with animal care and control.

The proposal, brought forward by Supervisor Steve Ding, would require that any pet that is picked up and impounded into a shelter be spayed or neutered before being returned to its owner. Supervisor Ding said the issue requires proactive leadership before conditions worsen further.

“This is about responsibility, compassion, and common sense,” said Supervisor Ding. “When shelters are overwhelmed and taxpayers are carrying higher costs, we cannot simply look the other way and hope the problem fixes itself. Exploring a balanced ordinance now can help prevent unnecessary suffering and create a better system for everyone.”

County shelters and rescue groups continue to face pressure from unwanted litters and abandoned animals, many of which are left on streets, in rural areas, or in dangerous conditions. Sheriff Patrick Withrow said San Joaquin County is on track to spend over \$1 million this fiscal year on 1,700 animal impounds.

Spayed and neutered pets also tend to live longer, healthier lives and are less likely to roam, fight, or contribute to accidental litters. “By supporting mandatory spay and neuter laws, we choose prevention over tragedy, responsibility over neglect, and compassion over complacency,” said Jill Antonini, Development Director for the Animal Protection League, who spoke in favor of an ordinance.

County staff will return with any future recommendations or implementation options as directed by the Board.

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San Joaquin County Supervisor Steve Ding represents District 4 which includes the communities of Lodi, Woodbridge, Thornton, Linden, Lockeford, Clements, Acampo, Morada and East Stockton.