

City Updates Animal Control Codes

New Spay and Neuter Ordinance

The City of Carpinteria has passed a spay-neuter ordinance for dogs and cats over the age of six months, which will become effective July 1, 2016. The City's intent is to create a culture and common practice of spaying and neutering dogs and cats to help curtail the six to eight million animals that are abandoned, stray, suffering from neglect, or euthanized in shelters nationwide every year. Spay and neuter surgeries help prevent unwanted behaviors such as aggressiveness towards other animals, roaming, marking, spraying and persistent barking.

Education and voluntary compliance to spay and neuter is preferred, with enforcement measures and fines by Code Compliance as a last resort. Your veterinarian is not required to report whether or not your pet is spayed or neutered. Exemptions to the spay and neuter laws are listed below:

- The dog or cat is a breed approved by and is registered with the American Kennel Club, American Cat Fanciers Association or a similar registry recognized by the Code Compliance Division.
- The dog has earned, or if under three years old, is actively being trained and in the process of earning, an agility, carting, herding, protection, rally, hunting, working or other title from a registry or association approved by the Code Compliance Division.
- The dog is being, or has been, appropriately trained and is actively used in a manner that meets the definition of a guide, signal or service dog as set forth in Penal Code Section 365.5, subdivisions (d), (e) and (f), or the dog is enrolled in a guide dog program administered by a person licensed under Business and Professions Code Section 7200 et seq.
- The dog is being, or has been, appropriately trained and is actively used by law enforcement agencies, the military, or search and rescue organizations, for law enforcement, military, or search and rescue activities.
- The owner of the dog or cat provides a letter to the Code Compliance Division from a licensed veterinarian certifying that the animal's health would be best served by spaying/neutering after a specified date; or that due to age, health or illness of the animal, it is detrimental to the health of the animal to spay/neuter the animal; or that arrangements have been made to spay/neuter the dog or cat within sixty days after the compliance deadline and the dog or cat is spayed/neutered within that sixty-day period.
- The owner of the dog or cat is an American Kennel Club "Breeder of Merit."
- The dog or cat has a valid breeding permit issued to the owner by the Code Compliance Division.



Breeding Permits

Beginning July 1, 2016, the City will be issuing breeding permits to persons who wish to breed their dogs and/or cats. The breeding permit will be issued for the initial fee of \$100 and can be renewed annually without any fee before its expiration date. A separate permit is required for each dog or cat which is allowed to breed. Regulation of breeding not only helps prevent accidental or casual breeding, but imposes regulations that protect the health of the animals involved by limiting the number of litters allowed per year, requiring minimal veterinary oversight, and regulating where and at what age puppies and kittens can be sold in Carpinteria. State laws already prohibit the sale of dogs and cats in public places, such as parking lots of businesses.



Leash Length

For the safety of dogs and the public, in Carpinteria leashes may be no greater than six (6) feet in length. If you own a retractable leash, it cannot be extended more than six feet. The intent of this local law is to keep animals under the custody and control of their owner, or the person in charge of the animal, at all times when off of private property.