

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Health Code - Spaying, Neutering, and Sterilizing of Dogs]

Ordinance amending the Health Code to require that every dog in San Francisco, with certain exceptions, be spayed, neutered, or chemically sterilized, rather than requiring such procedures only for pit bulls; to establish a process and fee for applying for an unaltered dog permit, and a process for granting, denying, or revoking such permit, with a hearing following a denial or revocation; to regulate the transfer, sale, and breeding of unaltered dogs; and to establish penalties and conditions of impoundment for violations of the mandatory spay, neuter, or chemical sterilization requirements.

Existing Law

Existing law requires all pit bulls in the City and County of San Francisco to be spayed or neutered, with limited exceptions. Violations are subject to fines of \$100-1,000. Existing law also provides a permit process for granting or denying pit bull breeding permits, regulates breeding of pit pulls, requires reporting of pit bull litters, and mandates posting of permit numbers.

Amendments to Current Law

The proposed ordinance would repeal the provisions requiring pit bulls to be spayed or neutered, and add provisions requiring every dog in San Francisco, with certain exceptions, be spayed, neutered, or chemically sterilized, rather than requiring such procedures only for pit bulls. Exceptions would include dogs under one year of age, cases where a veterinarian certifies that spaying, neutering, or sterilizing would likely cause serious bodily harm or death, or situations where the guardian has obtained an unaltered dog permit from the Animal Care and Control (ACC).

The proposed ordinance would establish the conditions under which a guardian may obtain an unaltered dog permit from ACC, along with a process and fee for applying for one. It would also set out procedures for granting, denying, or revoking permits, including a hearing process conducted by the Director of ACC following a denial or revocation.

Additionally, the proposed ordinance would regulate the transfer, sale and breeding of unaltered dogs, and would establish penalties for violations ranging from an infraction and \$250 fine for the first violation, to a misdemeanor and a \$1,000 fine for a second violation. The proposed ordinance would also authorize ACC to impound unaltered dogs.