



**TULARE COUNTY
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY**

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**CHANGES TO COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES ORDINANCES GO BEFORE THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Proposed changes affect only residents of unincorporated areas in Tulare County

VISALIA, CA –Tulare County Animal Services strives to improve the safety and quality of life for the animals and residents of Tulare County. Therefore, to clarify and enhance the ordinances, proposed revisions have been presented to the Board of Supervisors. Community members in the unincorporated areas of Tulare County are encouraged to read about the proposals.

“This has been a three-year process in collaboration with the Animal Services Advisory Committee and the Ordinance and Standards Review Ad Hoc Committee, with review of industry best practices and extensive research and review from the County Counsel's office, culminating in meetings with community stakeholders and the public,” says Animal Services Division Manager Patrick Hamblin. “Changes to the ordinances continue to bring Tulare County Animal Services online with other forward-thinking counties and the State of California.”

The Animal Services Advisory Committee has been integral to the proposed changes. Public meetings held in Pixley on September 25, 2018, and Sultana on September 26, 2018, and public comment through the Animal Service's website resulted in additional revisions to the proposed ordinances.

Key changes include:

- Addition of commercial kennel and rescue organization minimum standards
- Expands definitions with a change to define adult dogs as being nine (9) months or older
- Requires all dogs to be implanted with a microchip and the information provided to Animal Services, to have a greater ability to reunite pets with owners and decrease impounded animals
- All dogs to be spayed or neutered by six (6) months of age
 - Exceptions include police dogs, licensed unaltered dogs, dogs to whom this would be detrimental (with written veterinarian allowance), and those whose owners apply for an unaltered license
- Implementing a maximum number of dogs for kennel permit holders
- Limiting the number of breeder permits issued to commercial breeders and kennel operations
 - Individuals would have an allowance of one permit per household
- To promote responsible pet ownership through the kennel and breeder process, a violations process has been proposed for kennel operators and for individuals without a kennel permit
- Live animals may not be sold, bartered, gifted, or transferred at swap meets within county jurisdictions

Kings County Animal Shelter Director Cassie Heffington says of the proposals, “I plan to utilize these proposed Kennel Requirements in order to restructure our own kennel permit processes, as I feel that they are well researched, comprehensive, and appropriate.”

The proposed revisions expanded definitions to create clarity, acknowledge the county's pet overpopulation issue, and maintain the commitment to the mission, vision, and values for both the Animal Care and Adoptions facility operations and the Animal Control function.

Voting for the proposed ordinances is on the Board of Supervisors agenda on April 30. For information on the proposed ordinances, please visit: www.tcanimalservices.org. We appreciate your comments; send them to: AnimalControlSupport@tularehhsa.org, or call 559-636-4080.

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