



Marcia Mayeda, Director

September 25, 2018

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**AMENDMENTS TO LOS ANGELES COUNTY CODE, TITLE 10 - ANIMALS
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Approval of the recommended amendments to Los Angeles County Code Title 10 - Animals to add provisions relating to the keeping of roosters in the County of Los Angeles.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD AFTER THE PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Approve the attached Ordinance amending Title 10 - Animals, of the Los Angeles County Code to amend or add various sections; and
2. Introduce, waive reading, and adopt the Ordinance.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The keeping of roosters in the County of Los Angeles (County) results in many complaints to the Department of Animal Care and Control (Department) as well as to offices of the Board of Supervisors and to cities that contract with the Department.

The complaints emphasize residents' inability to enjoy their property due to the noise, odor, and other disturbances caused by roosters near their property. Additionally, the

Agoura ACC
29525 Agoura Road
Agoura Hills, CA 91301
(818) 991-0071

Baldwin Park ACC
4275 N. Elton Street
Baldwin Park, CA 91706
(626) 962-3577

Carson/Gardena ACC
216 W. Victoria Street
Gardena, CA 90248
(310) 523-9566

Castaic ACC
31044 N. Charlie Canyon Rd.
Castaic, CA 91384
(661) 257-3191

Downey ACC
11258 S. Garfield Ave.
Downey, CA 90242
(562) 940-6898

Lancaster ACC
5210 W. Avenue I
Lancaster, CA 93536
(661) 940-4191

Palmdale ACC
38550 Sierra Highway
Palmdale, CA 93550
(661) 575-2888

Administrative Office
5898 Cherry Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90805
(800) 253-3555

Department regularly discovers illegal rooster fighting operations. These illegal operations often also uncover illegal drugs and weapons.

The largest seizure of illegal cockfighting birds in U.S. history took place in May 2017 in the unincorporated Los Angeles County area of Val Verde. More than 7,800 cockfighting birds, along with illegal cockfighting paraphernalia, guns, and illegal drugs were seized by the County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department. This same property was the subject of a similar action in 2007, when more than 2,700 illegal cockfighting birds were seized.

As a result, on December 19, 2017, a motion was made by Supervisors Kathryn Barger and Sheila Kuehl instructing the Department of Animal Care and Control and the Office of the County Counsel to report back to the Board with a recommendation to limit the keeping of roosters in the unincorporated area of Los Angeles County.

The Department held ten community meetings in various parts of the County to gather input from residents (Attachment B). The Department also received emails and letters from residents expressing their opinion on the restriction of roosters. The summary of concerns, and the Department's responses, is also enclosed (Attachment C). Many of the people who opposed the restriction of roosters attended every meeting. Some of these people came from other counties and would not be impacted by the proposed ordinance. At times during the meetings their opposition intimidated Los Angeles County residents into silence.

The Department and County Counsel also reviewed existing ordinances restricting the keeping of roosters in other counties in California. These ordinances proved useful as we developed our recommended ordinance for your consideration. These other counties included the Counties of Monterey, Napa, San Diego, Santa Clara, and Solano.

In addition, the Department consulted with several national animal welfare organizations, including but not limited to, the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA).

With respect to the unlicensed keeping of roosters, the Department and County Counsel determined that the most reasonable and equitable approach to regulation would be based on the size of the property where the roosters are kept. A resident who wishes to exceed that number would be required to obtain an Animal Facility License from the Department and would be subject to an annual inspection. In no case may more than 25 roosters be kept except for commercial poultry ranches that are regulated by the USDA. An exception also exists for animal shelters who may be required to seize a

large number of roosters for law enforcement or rescue purposes. Finally, Future Farmers of America (FFA) and 4-H groups may continue their educational programs within the requirements of this ordinance, but must provide confirming information they are legitimate participants in these educational programs.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

Approval of the recommended actions is consistent with County Strategic Plan Goal I.1 - Make Investments that Transform Lives by increasing our focus on prevention initiatives by preventing the prevalence of illegal cock fighting and keeping for that purpose. Approval of the recommended actions is also consistent with County Strategic Plan Goal II.2 - Foster Vibrant and Resilient Communities, by supporting the wellness of our communities by reducing the public nuisance and safety aspect of the excessive keeping of roosters.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Any fees collected as a result of these changes will partially offset the cost of implementing them, which the Department will otherwise absorb. As a result there is no fiscal impact.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

It is recommended that your Board approve the proposed Ordinance changes:

- Amend Los Angeles County Code §10.040.075 to provide for an administrative fine process for the violation of keeping of roosters.
- Add Los Angeles County Code §10.08.208 to define “rooster.”
- Delete Los Angeles County Code §10.12.050 because this authority is already provided under Los Angeles County Code §5.02.010. This is not related to rooster keeping but removes an unnecessary duplication in the Los Angeles County Code.
- Amend Los Angeles County Code §10.28.060 to require an animal facility license to keep more than the allowed number of roosters.
- Add Los Angeles County Code Chapter §10.38 regarding the keeping of roosters.

- Amend Los Angeles County Code §10.90.010 to establish a new fee for Animal Facility Licenses for roosters.

These proposed changes to the Los Angeles County Code Title 10 have been approved by County Counsel.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES

These changes will allow unlicensed poultry enthusiasts to own roosters based on the size of their property. It also provides an opportunity to obtain an animal facility license to keep more roosters. The number of additional roosters an owner will be allowed to keep with an animal facility license will depend on several factors relating to the public health, welfare, and safety. The ability to keep more roosters with an animal facility license will also accommodate residents who live in more rural areas. Limiting the number of roosters allowed will prevent overcrowding of hundreds of roosters in rural areas as well as in residential neighborhoods.

During calendar years 2012 - June, 2018, the Department impounded a total of 18,300 fowl. Attachment D shows which Supervisorial District these came from, and which Animal Care Center received the fowl. It is important to consider both metrics. For example, 4,570 fowl came from the Second District, mostly unincorporated Compton, but that area is served by the Downey Animal Care Center, which resides in the Fourth District and bears the burden of addressing these issues.

We do not anticipate any long term changes to Department services. We expect there will be an initial rise in requests for animal facility licenses but these will be incorporated into our existing animal facility licensing program and the work should stabilize over time. The Department will allow for a three month grace period for owners to come into compliance with the allowable number of roosters, unless complaints about the care or noise of the roosters are made during that time. This will give rooster owners with too many roosters the chance to rehome their roosters.

It should also be noted that most cities in Los Angeles County either prohibit or restrict the keeping of roosters. Of the 88 cities in the County, 43 cities prohibit the keeping of roosters. The City of Los Angeles allows one rooster per household. Other cities have language in their ordinances that effectively ban roosters through zoning restrictions or provisions prohibiting the keeping of any fowl that creates excessive noise.

There will be no impact on chicken owners who own hens for egg production and consumption. Roosters are not required for the production of eggs. Hens are not regulated by this ordinance.

The Department does not recommend “grandfathering” in the roosters that are already owned in the County. It would be extremely difficult to identify the existing roosters from replacement birds when the existing roosters die or are sold. Leg bands, which is one way of identifying roosters, can be altered and falsified. The only positive way of identifying roosters would be the implantation of microchips in each bird. This would not only be very expensive for legitimate fowl enthusiasts, but would require far more staff time (and risk of injury) during their annual inspections to scan each bird, and subsequently check their records. The cost of implementing such a system would have to be passed on to the rooster owner, and could cost hundreds of dollars in staff time. For example, it is not unusual for Department officers to discover 300 - 500 roosters. It would take several officers two to three days to properly scan and record each bird. The three month grace period for enforcement will allow those with the excessive numbers of roosters to rehome or surrender their roosters to the Department.

Most importantly, this ordinance will put into place regulations relating to the keeping of roosters. Residents will be able to peacefully enjoy their property, and legitimate poultry enthusiasts will be able to continue their enjoyable hobby. The County Code’s improved noise ordinance can address any complaints regarding noise. Large scale illegal cockfighting operations will be better prevented and eliminated.

Other recommended changes clarify or resolve existing conflicts within the Code.

CONCLUSION

Upon Board approval, the Executive Officer is requested to return one adopted copy of the Board letter to the Department.

Respectfully submitted,

MARCIA MAYEDA
Director

MM:in

S:Brd Corres:Brd Ltrs:9.25.18:/bl Title 10 Rooster Ordinance

Attachments

c: Chief Executive Office
County Counsel
Executive Office

ANALYSIS

This ordinance amends Title 10 – Animals of the Los Angeles County Code, to amend and add provisions relating to the keeping of roosters and the consequences of violations of the ordinance. The revisions limit the number of roosters that may be kept on a single property to reduce public nuisances, illegal cockfighting, the raising of birds used for cockfighting, and to protect the health and safety of the County's residents.

MARY C. WICKHAM
County Counsel

By 
DIANE C. REAGAN
Principal Deputy County Counsel
Social Services Division

DCR:dt

Requested: 12/7/17

Revised: 7/03/18

ORDINANCE NO. _____

An ordinance amending Title 10 – Animals of the Los Angeles County Code, to add provisions relating to the keeping of roosters in the County.

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles ordains as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 10.04.075 is hereby amended to read as follows:

10.04.075 Administrative Citations.

A. Violations.

The Department may enforce violations of the ordinances listed in subsection B as administrative citations in lieu of criminal prosecution subject to the following fines:

1. First violation: Fine of up to \$100;
2. Second violation of the same section of Title 10 within the preceding 12 months: Fine of up to \$250;
3. Third violation of the same section of Title 10 within the preceding 12 months: Fine of up to \$500;
4. Each additional violation of the same section of Title 10 within the preceding 12 months: Fine of up to \$500.

B. Provisions Subject to Administrative Citations.

A written Notice of Violation and Administrative Fine ("Notice") will be served on a person who has violated one of the following code sections:

1. Section 10.20.030: License—Required—Fees and Other Charges;
2. Section 10.20.185: Microchipping of Dogs and Cats Required;
3. Section 10.20.220: Vaccination Requirements;
4. Section 10.32.010: Dogs at Large; or

~~5. Section 10.40.060: Animal Noise.~~

5. Section 10.38.010: Keeping of Roosters; or

6. Section 10.40.060: Animal Noise

...

SECTION 2. Section 10.08.208 is hereby added to read as follows:

10.08.208 Rooster.

"Rooster" means a male chicken that is:

- A. Six months of age or older; or
- B. Has full plumage; or
- C. Is capable of crowing.

SECTION 3. Section 10.12.050 is hereby deleted in its entirety:

~~10.12.050 Authority to Accept Negotiable Paper.~~

~~The Director may accept negotiable paper as provided in the Administrative Code, subject to all applicable statutes.~~

SECTION 4. Section 10.28.060 is hereby amended to read as follows:

10.28.060 License—Required for Certain Activities and Animals—Certain Animals Exempt.

A person, including a new owner of an existing organization or business, cannot conduct or operate an animal facility or keep a wild animal within the Department's jurisdiction without first obtaining a license from the Department and any other applicable agency. Failure to obtain a license for an animal facility or a wild animal is a misdemeanor. A license is not required for the keeping of the following animals as pets:

1. Birds; but a license is required for the keeping of more roosters than allowed in Section 10.38.010 B.

2. Domestic rodents (pet mice, rats, guinea pigs, hamsters, and chinchillas);

3. Fish;

4. Non-venomous reptiles less than six feet in length;

5. Rabbits.

SECTION 5. Chapter 10.38 is hereby added to read as follows:

10.38 Roosters.

SECTION 6. Section 10.38.010 is hereby added to read as follows:

10.38.010 Keeping of Roosters.

A. Purpose.

The purpose of this chapter is to limit the number of roosters that may be kept on a single property to reduce public nuisances, illegal cockfighting, the raising of birds used for cockfighting, and to protect the health and safety of the County's residents. For purposes of this section a single property is defined as any parcel or combination of parcels operated as one unit.

B. Rooster Keeping Requirements.

1. It is unlawful to keep or maintain on any single property more roosters than are listed in the following table without an animal facility license:

Size of Property	Maximum number of roosters
Less than one-half acre	2
One-half acre to one acre	4
One to five acres	6
More than five acres	10

2. This section does not apply to commercial poultry ranches whose primary commodity is the production of eggs or meat for sale, and are regulated by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food Safety Inspection Service, or government-operated animal shelters or other animal welfare organizations that employ humane officers as described in Corporations Code section 14502.

3. Each individual rooster over the number listed in the table above for the applicable size of a single property constitutes a separate violation.

4. Nothing in this Title 10 may be construed as authorizing the keeping of roosters in violation of any other applicable law or ordinance. The construction and location of the cages or coops must not conflict with the requirements of any building code or setback line, and must be at least 50 feet from any residence other than the owner's residence.

5. Roosters must be kept in accordance with Section 10.40.010.

C. Rooster Animal Facility License.

An animal facility license may only be issued to a person approved by the Director who complies with the following requirements:

1. A person who seeks to keep or maintain more roosters than allowed under subsection (B)(1) above must file an application for an animal facility license, comply with the requirements of Section 10.28.050, and pay the required fee. A penalty in addition to the license fee will be charged to a person who keeps more roosters than allowed under subsection (B)(1) without an animal facility license.

2. The number of additional roosters allowed to be kept by an animal facility licensee will be determined according to several factors relating to the public

health, welfare, and safety, including but not limited to the following: parcel size, proximity to neighbors, sanitation, and ability to meet animal care standards set forth Section 10.40.010. No more than 25 roosters may be kept or maintained on any property.

3. Any person who seeks to keep or maintain more roosters than allowed under subsection (B)(1) above is subject to an onsite inspection of the premises by an animal control officer, humane officer, or peace officer upon demand. In addition, a person who seeks to keep or maintain more roosters than are permitted by subsection (B)(1) above as part of a local chapter of 4-H or Future Farmers of America (FFA) must meet all of the following requirements:

a. Provide written proof of current membership in 4-H or FFA to any animal control officer, humane officer, or peace officer upon demand;

b. Provide written documentation and approval of a 4-H or FFA project that involves the roosters to any animal control officer, humane officer, or peace officer upon demand. The approval must be from one of the following organizations: 4-H, the County 4-H Advisor, or the FFA. The documentation must state the nature of the project, the number of roosters required by the project, the breed of each rooster, the duration of the project, the purpose for keeping the roosters, and the address where the roosters are kept and maintained;

c. The roosters on the property are designated in the 4-H or FFA project documentation; and

d. The number of roosters on a single property does not exceed the number of roosters specified in the 4-H or FFA project documentation.

D. Violations.

Violators of this section are subject to citation under Section 10.04.075 of this Title 10, and to any other applicable penalties.

SECTION 7. Section 10.90.010 is hereby amended to read as follows:

10.90.010 Licensing Fees Schedule.

The license fees required to be paid are as follows, except that the Director may waive, reduce, or refund fees for undue hardship:

I. Individual Animal Licenses.	Fees
Except for discharged military dogs and service animals, a person who owns a dog or cat over the age of four months and pays the license fee required under this section will be issued a tag and license that must be renewed annually:	
A. Dog license and tag fees:	
1. Unaltered (Unspayed/unneutered) (\$5 of each fee received is designated for low cost spay/neuter program)	\$60.00
2. Altered (Spayed/neutered) (\$5 of each fee received is designated for low cost spay/neuter program)	\$20.00
3. Senior citizen—Spayed/neutered dog	\$7.50
4. Disabled Veteran	\$7.50
5. A delinquency charge equal to the cost of the license will be added if	

the license application or renewal is not submitted within 30 days after the due date.	
6. Replacement of tag or official license receipt	\$5.00
7. Transfer of ownership	\$5.00
8. Discharged military dogs (one-time registration fee)	\$5.00
9. Field enforcement fee: The owner or custodian of a dog found unlicensed by a Department employee in the field will be charged a field enforcement fee.	\$40.00
B. Cat license fees:	
1. Unspayed/unneutered	\$10.00
2. Spayed/neutered	\$5.00
3. Replacement cat tag	\$5.00
4. Transfer of ownership	\$5.00
5. A delinquency charge equal to the cost of the license will be added if the license application or renewal is not submitted within 30 days after the due date.	
6. Field enforcement fee: The owner or custodian of a cat found unlicensed by a Department employee in the field will be charged a field enforcement fee.	\$40.00
C. Other animals—Licenses required:	

1. Pygmy pigs	\$50.00
2. Wild animals	\$100.00
3. Service animals—one time registration fee	\$5.00
4. A delinquency charge for annual license renewal equivalent to the cost of the license, will be added to the license fee if the renewal is submitted more than 10 calendar days past the expiration date of a license, or if a license application was not otherwise timely submitted.	
5. Field enforcement fee: The owner or custodian of an animal found unlicensed by a department employee in the field will be charged a field enforcement fee.	\$40.00
D. Voluntary identification and registration:	
An animal may be registered in the Department's Voluntary Identification Program at the owner's request, if the animal is microchipped and upon the payment of the following fees:	
1. Initial identification and registration	\$20.00
2. Annual renewal	\$10.00
3. Transfer of ownership	\$5.00
II. Animal Facility Licenses.	Fees
Licenses for the animal facilities listed below are required to be obtained annually.	

A. Initial animal facility license fees (including inspection):	
1. License fees:	
a. Pet shop	\$250.00
b. Grooming parlor/mobile	\$250.00
c. Animal menagerie	\$250.00
d. Wild animal dealer	\$250.00
e. Hobby breeder (See Section 10.20.045)	\$250.00
f. Rodeo	
(i) First day or one day event	\$250.00
(ii) Each additional day	\$25.00
g. Animal exhibition	
(i) First day or one day event	\$250.00
(ii) Each additional day	\$25.00
h. Pygmy pig breeder	\$250.00
i. Non-profit humane organization facility	\$250.00
j. Dog and cat breeding and/or boarding facility:	
For purposes of license fee computation, fee is based on 75 percent of the total capacity of the facility or the actual animal population housed at the time of the inspection, whichever is greater.	

(i) 5-20 dogs or cats	\$300.00
(ii) 21-50 dogs or cats	\$350.00
(iii) 51-75 dogs or cats	\$400.00
(iv) 76-100 dogs or cats	\$450.00
(v) Over 100 dogs or cats	\$525.00
<u>k. Rooster animal facility license</u>	<u>\$ 25.00</u>
2. Penalty for operation of an animal facility without license. A penalty equivalent to the cost of the license will be added to the license fee if a facility operates without a license.	
3. Fee reduction for each additional animal facility application made at the same location at the same time.	\$125.00
B. Renewal animal facility license fees (including inspection):	
1. All animal facilities:	
a. Pet shop	\$175.00
b. Grooming parlor/mobile	\$175.00
c. Animal menagerie	\$175.00
d. Wholesale wild animal dealer	\$175.00
e. Hobby breeder (defined in Section 10.20.045)	\$175.00
f. Pygmy pig breeder	\$175.00

g. Non-profit humane organization	\$175.00
h. Dog and cat breeding and/or boarding facility:	
For purposes of license fee computation, fee is based on 75 percent of the total capacity of the animal facility or the actual animal population housed at the time of the inspection, whichever is greater.	
(i) 5-20 dogs or cats	\$225.00
(ii) 21-50 dogs or cats	\$275.00
(iii) 51-75 dogs or cats	\$325.00
(iv) 76-100 dogs or cats	\$375.00
(v) over 100 dogs or cats	\$450.00
<u>i. Rooster animal facility license</u>	\$ 25.00
2. A delinquency charge equal to the cost of the license will be added if the license application or renewal is not submitted within 30 days after the due date.	
3. Fee reduction for each additional animal facility renewal application made at the same location at the same time.	\$50.00
C. Miscellaneous fee provisions:	
1. Reinspection	\$40.00
2. Inspection fee for animal permits under Los Angeles County Code Sections 22.52.330 and 22.56.420—22.56.530	\$50.00

3. Businesses using dogs for protection (Sections 10.20.280 and 10.20.290)	\$50.00
4. Penalty for ownership of wild animal without license	\$100.00

[100.28060DRCC]

COMMUNITY MEETINGS - ROOSTER ORDINANCE

DATE	LOCATION	DISTRICT	TIME
Jan. 31, 2018	Lancaster/Palmdale Stephen Sorensen Park 16801 E. Ave P Lake Los Angeles, 93591	Fifth	5:30 pm
Feb. 3, 2018	Unincorporated Whittier Sorensen Park 11419 Rosehedge Drive Whittier, 90606	Fourth	9 a.m.
Feb. 8, 2018	Unincorporated Tujunga Kagel Canyon Altadena Charles Farnsworth Park 568 E. Mount Curve Avenue Altadena, 91001	Fifth	5:30 pm
Feb. 12, 2018	Unincorporated South Los Angeles/ Compton/Rancho Dominguez Ted Watkins Memorial Park 1335 E. 103rd Street Los Angeles, 90002	Second	5:30 pm
Feb. 17, 2018	Unincorporated East Los Angeles Eugene Obregon Park 4021 E. 1st Street Los Angeles, 90063	First	9 a.m.
Feb. 21, 2018	La Puente San Angelo Park 245 S. San Angelo Avenue La Puente, 91746	First	5:30 p.m.
Feb. 21, 2018	Antelope Acres Town Council 47707 90th St. West Lancaster, 93536	Fifth	6 p.m.
Feb. 26, 2018	Topanga Library 122 N. Topanga Canyon Blvd. Topanga, 90290	Third	5:30 p.m.
Mar. 1, 2018	Acton/Agua Dulce Public Library 33792 Crown Valley Road Acton, 93510	Fifth	5:30 p.m.
Apr. 11, 2018	The Town Council Topanga Library 122 N. Topanga Canyon Blvd. Topanga, 90290	Third	6 p.m.



Public Questions Raised Regarding Proposed Rooster Ordinance

	Question/Comment	Response
1	What are the proposed number restrictions on the keeping of roosters?	The number of roosters allowed will depend on the size of the property. Properties of less than ½ acre may have two roosters; properties between ½ and one acre may have four roosters; properties between one and five acres may have up to 6 roosters; and properties of five acres or more may have 10 roosters. No license is required for these numbers. Persons desiring to have more roosters above this number must obtain an animal facility license. No more than 25 roosters will be allowed under any circumstance.
2	Why not draft an ordinance that is breed specific to the roosters that are being used for fighting?	There are many breeds of roosters that are used for fighting, so this is not practical.
3	Backyard breeders order batches of hens for egg laying, but later discover that roosters have been placed within their order. This is a reason why they may end up with more roosters than they intended to have. Will they be penalized for that?	No. The definition of “rooster” in the ordinance is a male chicken that is at least six months of age or has adult plumage or is capable of crowing. Chicks will not meet this definition, and the chicken owner will be able to determine which chicks are males prior to their achieving the definition stated above.
4	When will the ordinance be effective?	The ordinance will go into effect 30 days after its second reading at the Board of Supervisors meeting. However, the Department will only issue warnings for the first three months after passage of the ordinance to give rooster owners time to rehome their roosters. During this time, the only enforcement activity will be in response to complaints or criminal activity (e.g. cockfighting).

	Question/Comment	Response
5	Does the ordinance restrict the number of hens on a single parcel?	No. There are no restrictions on the number of hens allowed.
6	Will the ordinance take into consideration the keeping of roosters in agricultural zones?	This was carefully considered in drafting the ordinance. The number of roosters allowed to be kept without an animal facility license depends on the parcel size. More roosters may be kept with an animal facility license to accommodate agricultural areas, up to a maximum of 25 roosters.
7	Will the ordinance be based on what other agencies and counties are enforcing?	The Department and County Counsel closely reviewed existing ordinances in other counties to provide the most reasonable ordinance for Los Angeles County.
8	When will a license be required?	Licenses will be required if a person wishes to exceed the allowed number of roosters set forth in the ordinance according to the parcel size. An animal facility license is required to keep more roosters than is allowed to be kept without a license. The animal facility license fee is \$25, to partially offset the cost of the annual inspection. No more than 25 roosters will be allowed under any circumstance.
9	The government is over-regulating property rights by enacting this ordinance.	This ordinance is designed to protect the property rights of the County's residents by addressing complaints regarding noise, sanitation, and illegal cockfighting in the interests of the public health, safety and welfare. The County regulates the keeping of other animals for the same reasons. For example, no more than four dogs may be kept at a residence without obtaining an animal facility license.
10	Will this affect other fowl, or just roosters?	This only affects roosters.
11	Can the County require a "black box" method or require "no crow collars" to address noise concerns?	The "black box" is a box in which roosters are placed during the night; it can be overly burdensome for rooster owners. "No crow collars" are a good way for owners to comply with noise complaints but it would be overly burdensome to require all rooster owners to utilize them. They also do not fully subdue crowing.

	Question/Comment	Response
12	Veterinarians should be required to report any roosters that have been “dubbed” for fighting.	Dubbing is the procedure of removing the comb, wattles, and sometimes earlobes of poultry. Many roosters that are not kept to fight are “dubbed;” dubbing is not a reliable test of whether a rooster is kept for fighting. Further, rooster owners may be reluctant to obtain necessary medical care if they fear being reported by the veterinarian.
13	This ordinance interferes with rural lifestyles.	Rooster owners of larger parcels of more than five acres may apply for a license to keep up to 25 roosters.
14	This ordinance will negatively affect animal feed supply stores.	Feed stores serve many purposes for different species of animals – horses, cattle, hogs, sheep, goats, and other species of fowl. It is unlikely the sale of chicken food and supplies will have a significant impact on these businesses, especially since the number of hens allowed to be kept is not affected by the ordinance.
15	One of the purposes of this ordinance is to reduce poultry disease, but many responsible poultry raisers are attentive to this issue and have healthy birds.	Yes, many responsible owners are attentive to the health of their birds. Unfortunately, the Department has discovered many ill birds at illegal cock fighting operations, where the birds’ health is not properly monitored. Exotic Newcastle Disease, which is highly fatal to poultry, has been the cause of several serious outbreaks and can decimate the poultry industry in California. There are currently outbreaks in Los Angeles, San Bernardino, and Riverside counties.
16	There are already state laws against rooster fighting. Why do we need this ordinance?	The proposed ordinance seeks to limit the number of roosters not only to reduce the problem of cockfighting but also to address the well-being of the birds, and to ensure neighbors’ peaceful enjoyment of their properties.
17	There are already ordinances regarding noise and unsanitary conditions. Why don’t you just enforce those?	The Department needs more tools to ensure the well-being of animals, to reduce criminal activity, and to ensure that residents can peacefully enjoy the use of their property. This is the reason that 41 cities in LA County outright ban the keeping of roosters, and 13 others limit the keeping of roosters by prohibiting the keeping of fowl that create excessive noise.

	Question/Comment	Response
18	Raising poultry is a good hobby for children and teaches them responsibility, and keeps them out of trouble. How will this affect 4-H and FFA participants?	Section 10. 38.010 C.3 provides that 4-H and FFA members will be able to continue with their projects provided they have the proper documentation to support their involvement in one of these organizations. The Department encourages the development of animal welfare-minded youth.
19	Owning roosters is part of our national heritage.	We recognize this, and roosters will still be allowed to be kept based on the provisions set forth in the ordinance.
20	Low income residents raise chickens for food, for themselves and to share with neighbors. They have no control over the sex of the chick when it is born, and do not want to be penalized for creating roosters.	The ordinance doesn't define chicks as roosters until they are at least six months of age, or have adult plumage, or are capable of crowing, so it won't matter how many baby roosters are born. Chickens are slaughtered at approximately 13 weeks of age, so this ordinance won't affect their use as food. Additionally, hens lay eggs without the presence of roosters, so it is not necessary to have roosters to raise chickens for food.
21	This violates our Constitutional rights.	The Solano County rooster ordinance was challenged in court several years ago, and was upheld. The ordinance withstood many constitutional challenges. The Court of Appeal ruled that the ordinance was valid on its face, and that it did not violate any of the plaintiffs' civil rights. Specifically, it rejected their 4th, 5th, and 14th Amendment claims. Their other constitutional claims were deemed abandoned. The court also rejected their claims that the ordinance was preempted by state laws.
22	An Environmental Impact Report, and a Financial Impact Report should be conducted.	The ordinance is not a "project" within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act; therefore, an EIR is not required. Likewise, there is no requirement for a financial report.

	Question/Comment	Response
23	Why not explore options to zone/designate certain areas of the county as “poultry/chicken district”? This would be similar to an “Entertainment District” or “Cannabis District,” with the benefit that within the designated district there would limits as to the numbers of animals that could be kept.	It would be unfair to many residents to limit the protections of the ordinance to specific areas. This ordinance will be enforced evenly throughout the unincorporated areas of the County for the benefit of all residents.
24	Other cities and counties have ordinances in place. Can we take “best practices” from them?	Yes, other counties’ ordinances were closely reviewed to provide the best ordinance for Los Angeles County.
25	Does the death of a rooster owner affect the keeping of roosters on that property?	The number of roosters permitted on a property without a license is unaffected by the death of the property owner. Animal facility licenses are not transferrable; therefore, a new property owner needs to obtain his or her own animal facility license to keep more than the number of roosters permitted without a license.
26	Why not grandfather in current owners?	Grandfathering is impractical, because there are many facilities that have hundreds of birds. This would also allow illegal cockfighting to continue, along with regular complaints about noise, unsanitary conditions, and other criminal activity.
27	Isn't this just another way for the County to raise money?	There is no license requirement, and therefore no fee for the allowable number of roosters depending on the size of the property. A rooster owner who wants to keep more than the allowed number of roosters will pay a nominal fee of \$25, which includes an annual inspection to ensure the well-being of the birds, proper sanitation, and to confirm that there is no evidence of cockfighting.

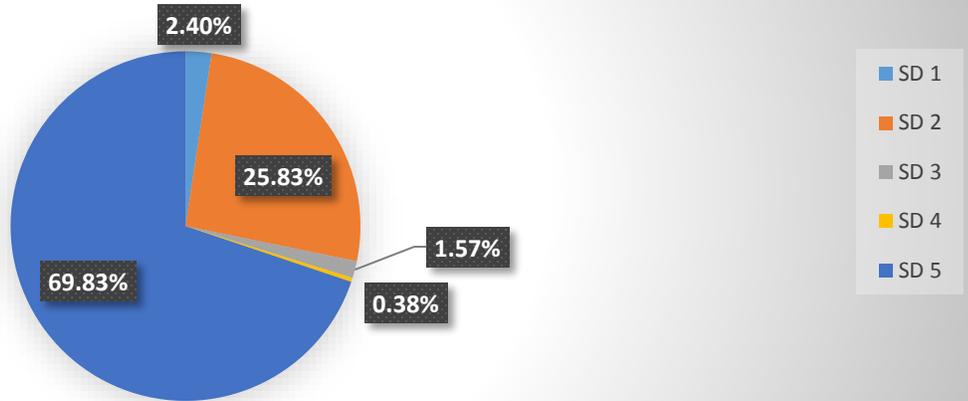
	Question/Comment	Response
28	The vote should be separated by rural versus urban areas, and urban voters should have no say in what the limit is.	This ordinance only applies to unincorporated areas of the County.
29	Change rooster keeping to only 10; 10 – 25 would require a license; 25+ would require a fee of \$1/bird.	<p>In 2012 individual license fees per rooster were suggested, similar to the suggested additional \$1/bird fee. Poultry keepers were adamantly opposed to individual rooster licenses (and related fees); for this reason that proposed ordinance was dropped before it was filed with the Board. The current proposed ordinance better addresses these concerns.</p> <p>Allowing the keeping of hundreds or thousands of roosters would cost the rooster owner hundreds or thousands of dollars and would result in numerous complaints.</p> <p>Further, this would allow the keeping of excessive numbers of gamefowl, and continuing cockfighting activities. We need to limit the number of roosters to help eliminate this criminal and inhumane activity. Removing limits on the number of roosters creates increased difficulties with enforcement and would result in greater enforcement and litigation costs. Finally, the removal of the limit of 25 roosters would contravene the purposes of the ordinance to reduce noise pollution, prevent animal cruelty, and reduce attendant criminal activity.</p>
30	Add a rooster facility license	This is unnecessary and would be redundant and create confusion in Title 10, because the animal facility license encompasses licenses for many different types of animal-related businesses, nonprofits, and hobbyists. Also it would deprive licensees of the due process protections accorded to animal facility licensees who can request hearings, etc. if their license is denied or revoked.



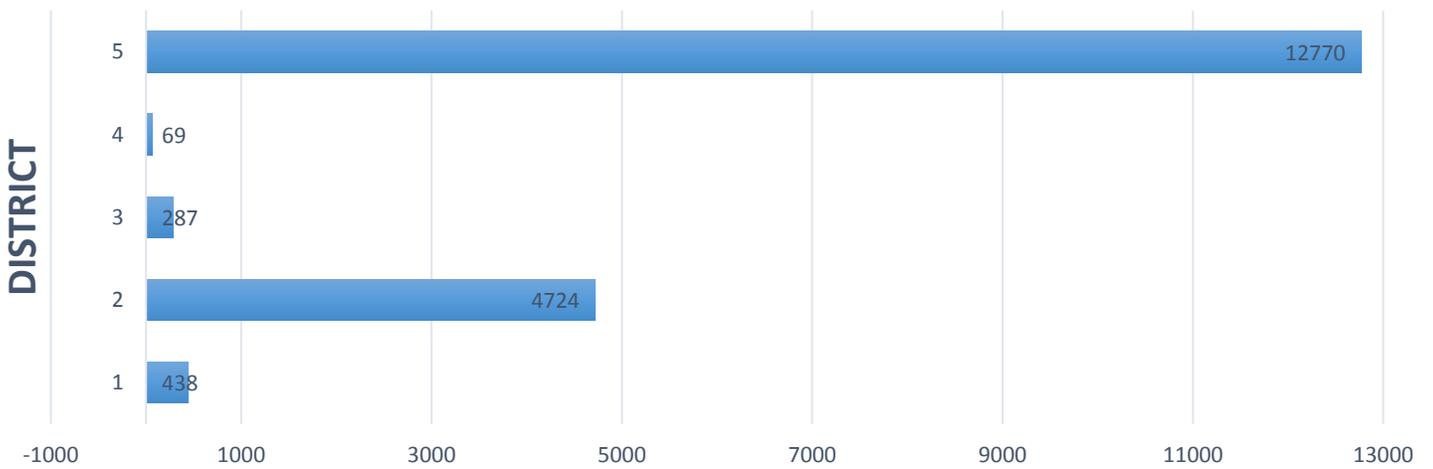
TOTAL FOWL IMPOUNDED BETWEEN 1/1/12 AND 5/18/18



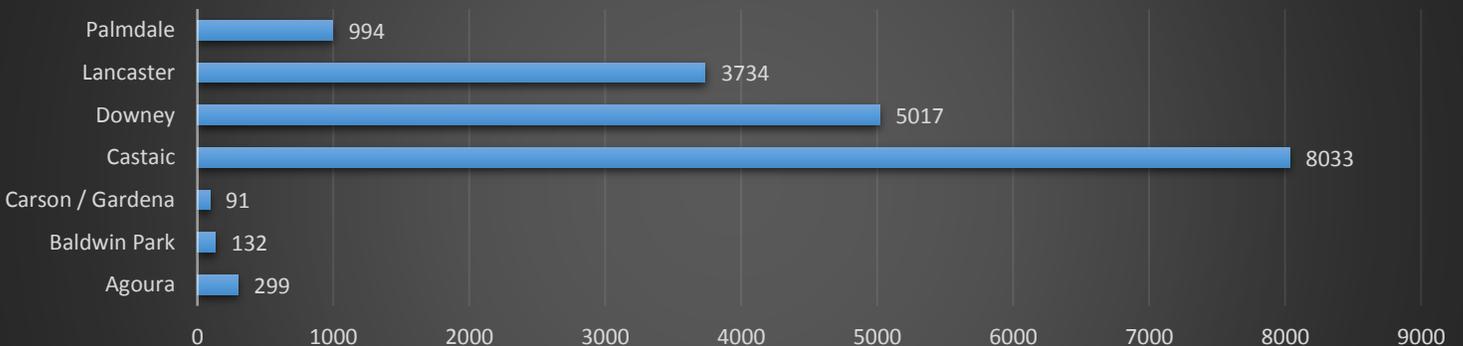
Supervisorial District



Number of Birds



La County Animal Care Centers



	Agoura	Baldwin Park	Carson / Gardena	Castaic	Downey	Lancaster	Palmdale
# Birds	299	132	91	8033	5017	3734	994