

# MANDATORY SPAY/NEUTER AND MICROCHIPPING ORDINANCES

**Promoting Responsible Pet Ownership**







# Introduction

**The Department of Animal Care and Control (DACCC) has been working closely with our contract cities to encourage the adoption of mandatory spay/neuter and microchipping ordinances.**

**These policies are proven to reduce animal populations and improve both animal and public health outcomes. They also reduce costs to cities by lowering admission rates and ensuring more pets are quickly reunited with their families.**



# What is microchipping and spay/neuter?

Microchipping involves implanting a small electronic chip under a pet's skin that contains the owner's contact information. It provides a permanent form of identification, helping reunite lost pets with their owners, supporting public safety, and encouraging responsible pet ownership.



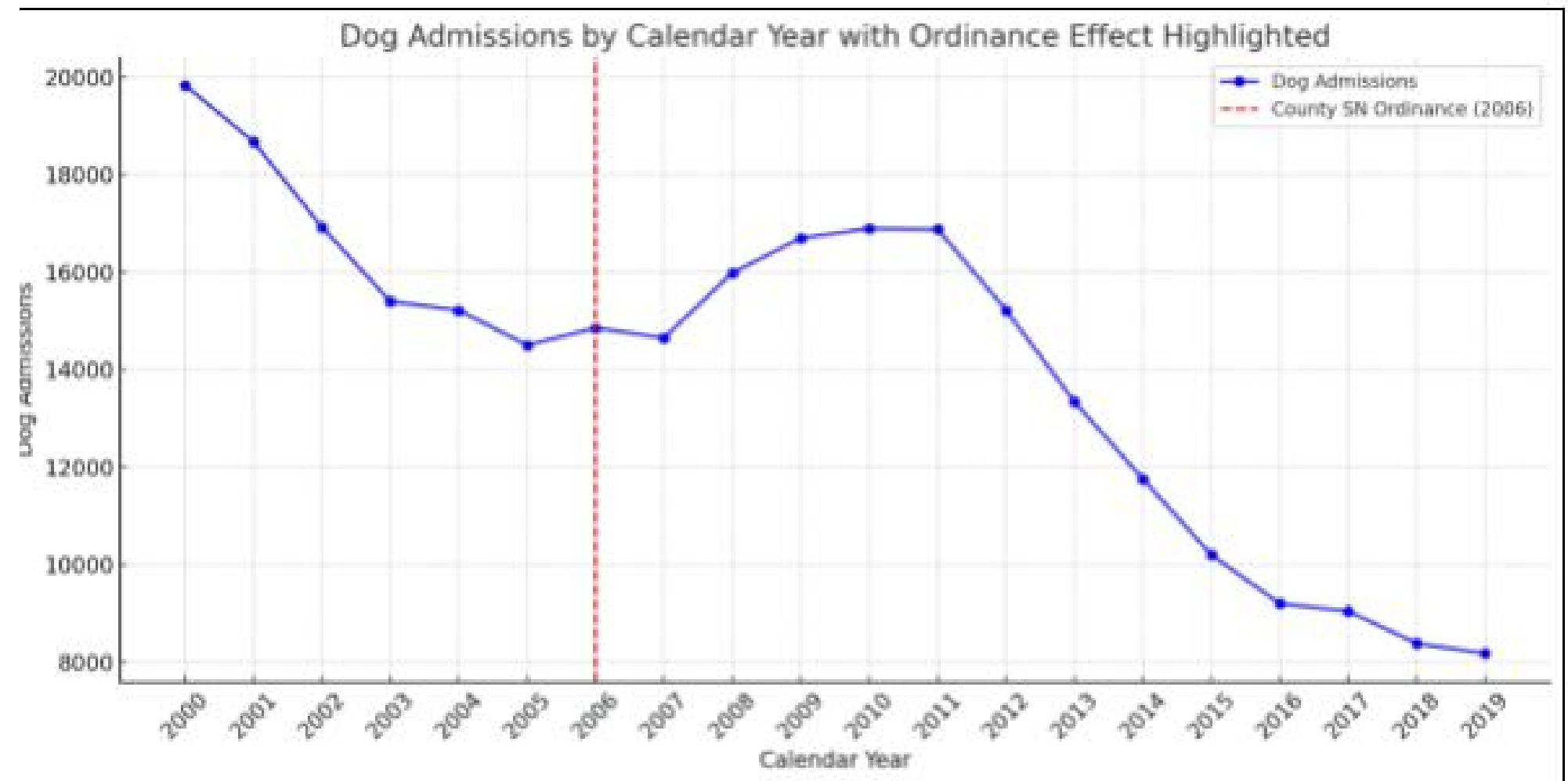
Spay (for females) and neuter (for males) are surgical procedures that prevent pets from reproducing. These procedures help control pet overpopulation, promote better health and behavior, and reduce animal admissions. Spay and neuter also helps prevent unaltered dogs from roaming in search of a mate.



# Why these ordinances matter for cities and the county

- Spay/neuter requirements directly address the root cause of animal overpopulation. Communities that adopt these ordinances consistently see lower intake numbers, healthier pets, and lower costs.
- Microchipping provides a permanent form of identification that dramatically improves reunification. Lost dogs with microchips are more than twice as likely to return home, and cats are over twenty times more likely to be reunited with their owners.
- Every reunion in the field avoids the \$945.72 per impound fee charged to cities, while also preventing the stress of housing animals in already full care centers.

- The increase in admissions from 2008 to 2011 was driven by the economic downturn and housing crisis, which forced many residents to surrender their pets.





# Countywide context

- Currently, 28 of our 45 contract cities have already adopted spay/neuter ordinances, and 36 have adopted mandatory microchip ordinances.
- The City of La Mirada was the most recent to adopt a mandatory spay/neuter ordinance, which was enacted in late 2024.
- These requirements mirror those in unincorporated Los Angeles County, reinforcing a consistent and proven model. The Board of Supervisors has also recognized the importance of these measures, most recently through a 2024 motion by Supervisor Barger that emphasized the urgent need to address pet overpopulation with innovative solutions.

Board Motion: <https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/196256.pdf>





# Cities and their spay/neuter and microchipping ordinances

City	ACC	Supervisory District (SD)	Mandatory Spay/Neuter	Mandatory Microchip
Agoura Hills	Agoura	SD3	Yes – dogs and cats	Dogs only
Alhambra	Downey	SD1	Yes – dogs and cats	Yes – dogs and cats
Artesia	Downey	SD4	No	No
Azusa	Baldwin Park	SD1	No	No
Baldwin Park	Baldwin Park	SD1	Yes – dogs and cats	Yes – dogs and cats
Bell	Downey	SD4	Yes – dogs and cats	Yes – dogs and cats
Calabasas	Agoura	SD3	Yes – dogs and cats	Yes – dogs and cats
Carson	Carson/Gardena	SD2	Yes – dogs and cats	Yes – dogs and cats
Commerce	Downey	SD4	Yes – dogs and cats	Yes – dogs and cats
Compton	Downey	SD2	Yes – dogs and cats	Yes – dogs and cats
Cudahy	Downey	SD4	Yes – dogs and cats	Yes – dogs and cats
Culver City	Carson/Gardena	SD2	Dogs only	Dogs only
El Monte	Baldwin Park	SD1	No	No
Gardena	Carson/Gardena	SD2	Yes – dogs and cats	Yes – dogs and cats
Hawaiian Gardens	Downey	SD4	Yes – dogs and cats	Yes – dogs and cats
Hawthorne	Carson/Gardena	SD2	Yes – dogs and cats	Yes – dogs and cats
Hidden Hills	Agoura	SD3	Yes – dogs and cats	Yes – dogs and cats
Huntington Park	Downey	SD4	No	Dogs only
Industry	Baldwin Park	SD1	Yes – dogs and cats	Yes – dogs and cats
Inglewood	Carson/Gardena	SD2	Yes – dogs and cats	Yes – dogs and cats
Irwindale	Baldwin Park	SD1	No	No
La Habra Heights	Downey	SD4	Yes – dogs and cats	Yes – dogs and cats
La Mirada	Downey	SD4	No	Yes – dogs and cats
La Puente	Baldwin Park	SD1	No	No

Lancaster	Lancaster	SD5	Dogs only	Yes – dogs and cats
Lawndale	Carson/Gardena	SD2	No	No
Lomita	Carson/Gardena	SD4	Yes – dogs and cats	Yes – dogs and cats
Malibu	Agoura	SD3	No	No
Maywood	Downey	SD4	Yes – dogs and cats	Yes – dogs and cats
Monterey Park	Downey	SD1	Yes – dogs and cats	Yes – dogs and cats
Palmdale	Palmdale	SD5	Yes – dogs and cats	Yes – dogs and cats
Palos Verdes Estates	Carson/Gardena	SD4	No	No
Rancho Palos Verdes	Carson/Gardena	SD4	Yes – dogs and cats	Yes – dogs and cats
Redondo Beach	Carson/Gardena	SD2	No	No
Rolling Hills	Carson/Gardena	SD4	Yes – dogs and cats	Yes – dogs and cats
Rolling Hills Estates	Carson/Gardena	SD4	Yes – dogs and cats	Yes – dogs and cats
San Fernando	Castaic	SD3	Yes – dogs and cats	Yes – dogs and cats
Santa Clarita	Castaic	SD5	Dogs only	Dogs only
Thousand Oaks	Agoura	Ventura County	No	No – MC only required for new dog licenses
Torrance	Carson/Gardena	SD4	No	No
Walnut	Baldwin Park	SD1	Yes – dogs and cats	Yes – dogs and cats
West Covina	Baldwin Park	SD1	No	No
West Hollywood	Carson/Gardena	SD3	Yes – dogs and cats	Yes – dogs and cats
Westlake Village	Agoura	SD3	Yes – dogs and cats	Yes – dogs and cats
Whittier	Downey	SD1 & SD4	No	No



# DACC's role in supporting cities

- **Spay/Neuter Trust Fund** - Through the Spay/Neuter Trust Fund, cities gain access to free or low-cost clinics held countywide. To opt into this fund, cities must contribute \$5 of every dog license sold within the city to the Trust Fund.
- DACC also assists with ordinance drafting, offering tailored reports and data analysis, and helping with community outreach to ensure residents understand both the benefits and the requirements.

This year, DACC has actively engaged cities across the County:

- In June, we sent letters to all contract cities encouraging adoption of mandatory spay/neuter and microchipping ordinances where we outlined the health, fiscal, and public safety benefits of these ordinances.
- In July, we collaborated closely with the City of West Covina, providing tailored information and city-specific data on the benefits of spay/neuter, in response to their interest in adopting mandatory spay/neuter.
- In September, the City of El Monte updated its contract to implement mandatory microchipping in response to our outreach and discussions.
- Also in September, we began a series of engagements with the City of Artesia, including emails, meetings, and the delivery of our dog alteration analysis for FY 2024-25. These conversations are ongoing.





# Promoting spay/neuter and the trust fund

This year, DACC developed and distributed a flyer promoting the Spay/Neuter Trust Fund and highlighting the benefits of spay and neuter. The flyer supports city engagement by clearly explaining how these practices improve pet health, reduce overpopulation, and lower costs for communities. It serves as a key tool in helping cities understand the value of adopting mandatory spay/neuter and microchipping ordinances.



## SPAY AND NEUTER TRUST FUND

**A Benefit for Pets and our Communities**

 For every dog license sold in your city, a \$5 contribution to the Spay and Neuter Trust Fund provides city residents with access to free or reduced cost spay/neuter services.

### How it Works!

- **Cities Contribute:** Support the program with \$5 allocated to the Trust Fund for each dog license sold within the city.
- **Residents Save:** Residents benefit from affordable spay/neuter services, making it easier to comply with city mandates and lower licensing fees.
- **Communities Thrive:** Fewer stray animals, healthier pets, and happier residents!

Spaying and neutering reduces the risk of certain cancers and diseases in pets. Sterilized pets are also less likely to roam, reducing stray animal populations and incidents of animal-related issues. It also helps reduce unintentional breeding which could lead to increased admissions from your city.



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# The importance of accessibility

**Mandating spay/neuter and microchipping is effective only when paired with free or low-cost options for pet owners; both elements are necessary for success.**



- > The cost of spay/neuter can range from approximately \$100 to over \$1,000, depending on factors such as the animal's size and the clinic.
- > DACC partners with Spay4LA and Simi Valley to provide low-cost mobile spay/neuter clinics in areas of greatest need, supported by grantors, Supervisor Barger's Office, and the Los Angeles County Animal Care Foundation.
- > DACC also hosts Vet@thePark clinics throughout the year, providing veterinary services via a mobile clinic, including free vaccinations, wellness exams, and available food or supplies.
- > Providing low-cost services is critical—mandates alone are insufficient if pet owners cannot afford care.

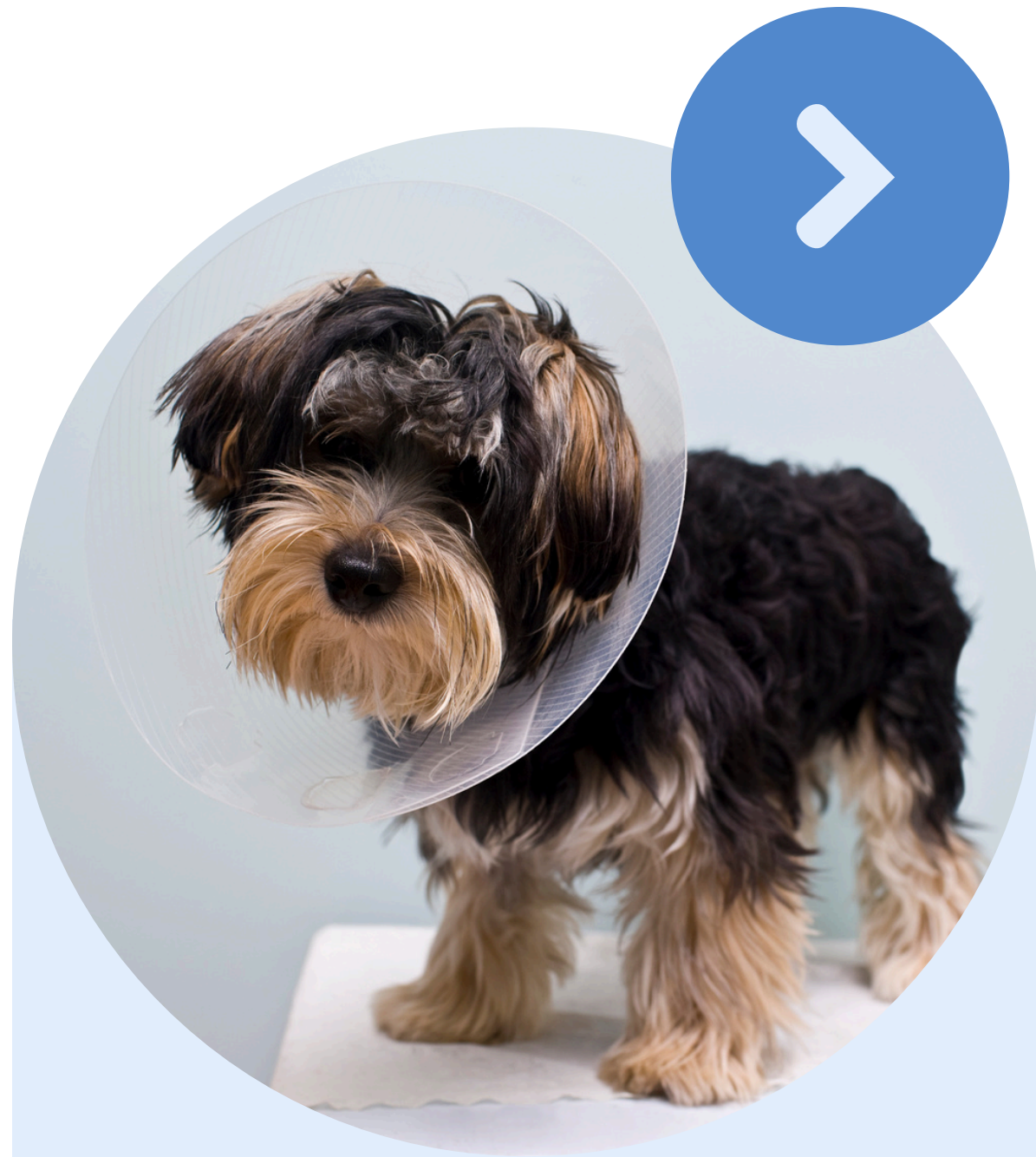




# Call to Action and Next Steps

- DACC's outreach shows that cities respond positively when presented with clear data, cost savings, and community benefits.
- Mandatory spay/neuter and microchipping ordinances are humane, proactive, and fiscally responsible solutions that keep pets healthy, increase reunifications, and reduce shelter strain. Board Deputies can strengthen these efforts by reinforcing our message with city officials, connecting DACC staff to key decision-makers, and highlighting alignment with County priorities—helping build momentum and encouraging adoption across the region.





# Resources

- American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) – Microchipping FAQs:  
<https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/pet-owners/petcare/microchips-reunite-pets-families/microchipping-faq>
- ASPCA – Spay/Neuter Your Pet:  
<https://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/general-pet-care/spayneuter-your-pet>
- DACC Resource Page for Spay/Neuter:  
<https://animalcare.lacounty.gov/spay-and-neuter/>
- DACC Resource Page for Microchipping Your Pets:  
<https://animalcare.lacounty.gov/microchips/>



# Thank You

For more information, please reach out at:

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